



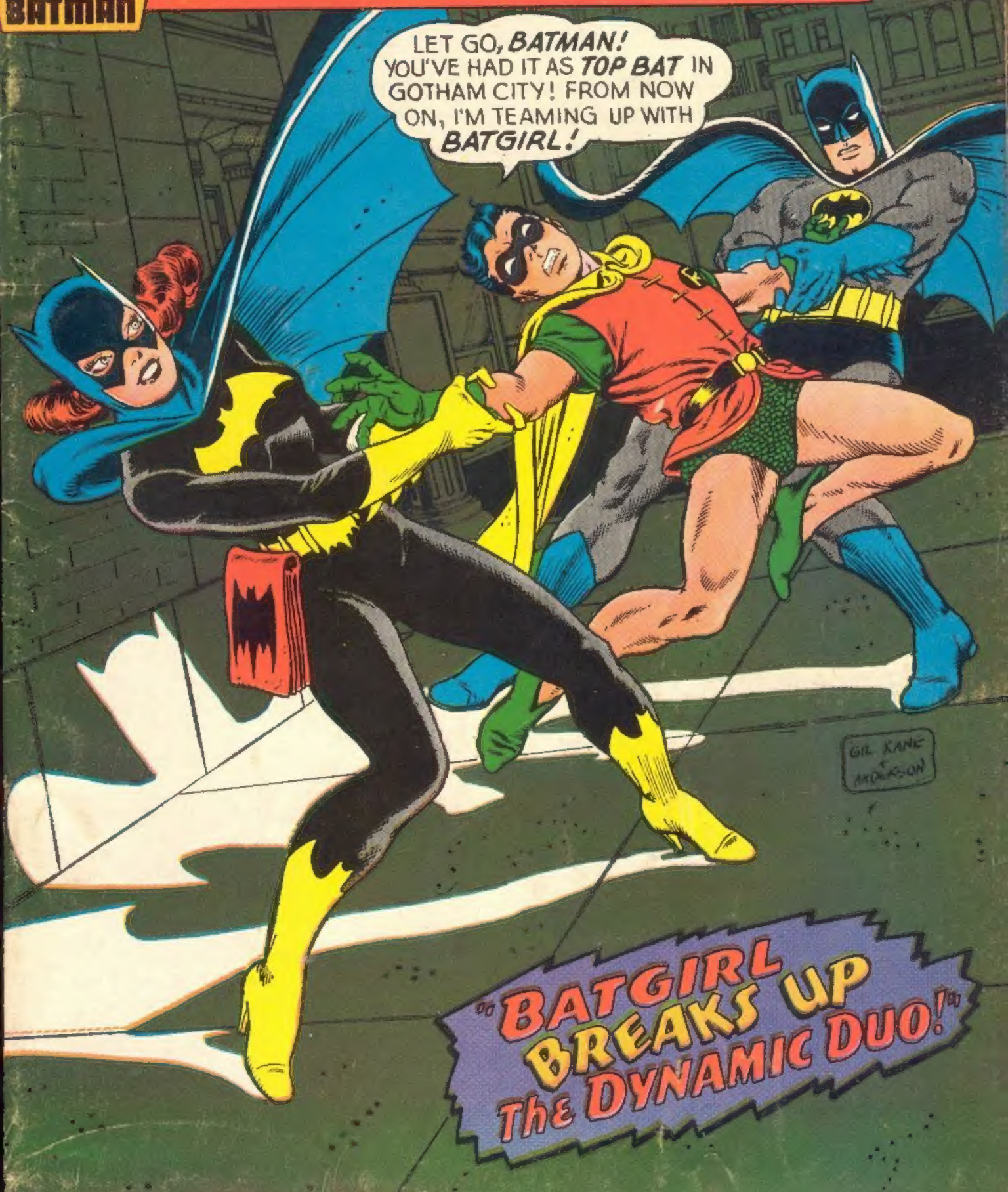
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DETECTIVE

COMICS

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NOV.
NO. 369
12¢



**BATGIRL
BREAKS UP
THE DYNAMIC DUO!**



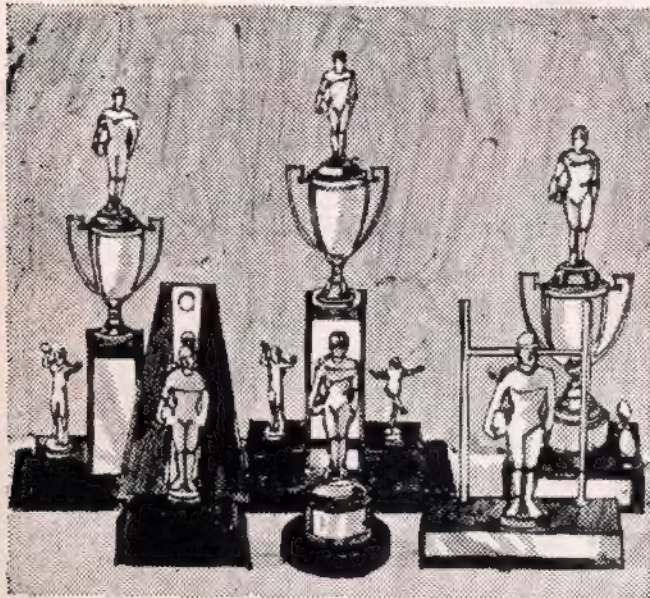
HEY GUYS!

WE'RE GETTING READY TO ENTER THE
FORD-NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
PUNT, PASS & KICK
COMPETITION!

IF YOU'RE BETWEEN
8 AND 13 YOU CAN
ENTER TOO!
IT'S FREE!
IT'S FUN!

**LOOK AT THE TROPHIES YOU COULD WIN! EVERY
FORD DEALER WILL MAKE 18 LOCAL AWARDS.**

You compete only with kids your own age, so you've got a great chance to win a handsome trophy! And so many other trophies, for other wins on the way to the National Finals! More than 75,000 trophies altogether! Wow!



HERE'S ALL YOU DO TO ENTER.

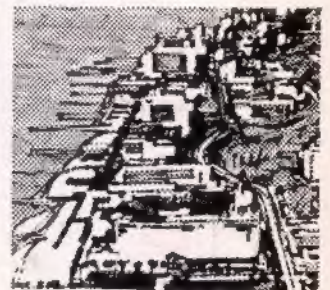


Just take your mom or dad to your participating Ford Dealer and sign up! It's that easy!

FREE TRIPS, TOO!

Win a District Competition and you get a trip to an NFL city! Plus a complete uniform free to compete in at half-time.

Win a Division Competition and you go on a Tour of Champions with all expenses paid for dad and mom, too! Start off in Washington, then go on to Miami!



During half-time of the big NFL Play-Off Game you'll compete for the National Championship right there in the Orange Bowl! Boy, that's something!

LOOK WHAT YOU GET FOR ENTERING



Just for signing up you get a swell PP&K pin to wear... AND a Punt, Pass & Kick TIPS BOOK by the big NFL stars, filled with hints to help you win. Free!

HURRY! REGISTRATION CLOSING OCTOBER 6TH!
TAKE MOM OR DAD TO YOUR PARTICIPATING FORD DEALER TODAY!

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BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER



WHEN FISHES FLY AND BIRDS SWIM--
WHEN GOLD IS AS CHEAP AS DIRT--
AND PEBBLES AS VALUABLE AS
DIAMONDS-- THAT WILL BE THE
DAY **ROBIN** DESERTS **BATMAN**!

BUT EVEN THOUGH SUCH MARVELS
DO NOT OCCUR ON THAT STRANGEST
OF ALL DAYS, THE **BOY WONDER**
DOES INDEED DISSOLVE HIS PARTNER-
SHIP WITH THE **CAPED CRUSADER**!

AND TO CAP THIS INCREDIBLE DAY,
THE **TEEN TITAN** BOLTS **BATMAN**
TO TEAM UP WITH **BATGIRL**!

BATGIRL BREAKS UP THE DYNAMIC DUO!

IT'S PATROL-TIME,
ROBIN! HOP IN
AND LET'S GET
GOING!

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER
GO WITH **ME, ROBIN**?
I HAVE A SIDECAR WITH
YOUR OWN SPECIAL INSIGNIA
ATTACHED TO MY
BATBIKE!

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ONE NIGHT ON A STRETCH OF COUNTRY ROAD OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY A MOTORCYCLIST WAITS BEHIND A BILLBOARD...

HERE COMES A SPEEDING CAR NOW!

THE CLEANER SOAP
FILE

IS THIS A SPEEDTRAP FOR AN UNWARY MOTORIST? NO! FOR MOMENTS AFTER THE CAR ROARS BY--OUT RACES BATGIRL ON HER BAT-BIKE!...

THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--TO TEST MY IMPROVED MULTI-COLOR LIGHT-TRACER BEAM!

I'VE ADJUSTED THE LIGHTS TO THE VIBRATIONS OF THAT CAR'S MOTOR! ONCE LOCKED INTO PLACE, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FOLLOW IT NO MATTER HOW FAR AHEAD OF ME IT GETS!

SUDDENLY, THE BAT-BIKE BRAKES TO AN ALMOST INSTANT STOP AS...

STOP! HELP! SOME CROOKS JUST SHOVED ME OUT OF THEIR CAR!

WHY--IT'S BATGIRL! GET AFTER THEM-- THEY JUST ROBBED THE GOTHAM GOTHIC ARTS MUSEUM!

I'M ONE OF THE GUARDS--AND THEY GRABBED ME AS A HOSTAGE TO INSURE THEIR GETAWAY! SOON AS THEY GOT IN THE CLEAR, THEY LET ME GO!

BUT NEVER MIND ME! I'M ALL RIGHT! JUST GO GET THOSE CROOKS, BATGIRL!

PICKING UP THE THIEVES' TRAIL, BATGIRL ROCKETS INTO THE AREA KNOWN AS MISTY SWAMP...

THEY CROSSED OVER THAT BRIDGE UP AHEAD!

I MUST BE CLOSING IN ON THEM! MY LIGHT-BEAMS ARE INCREASING IN INTENSITY!

BUT WHEN THE MOTORBIKE SPEEDS ACROSS THE CRUDE WOODEN BRIDGE...

OH!!

THE BRIDGE IS-- SINKING! THE WATER SLOWING ME DOWN...

I--MAY--NOT-- BE--ABLE--TO-- MAKE--IT--TO-- THE--OTHER--SIDE!

AT THE WATER'S EDGE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE BRIDGE...

PRETTY NEAT, EH, **BATGIRL**? BY LOWERING THIS BRIDGE UNDER WATER, WE MAKE SURE NOBODY CAN COME AT US IN OUR HIDE-OUT HERE!

IF THE SWAMP WATERS DON'T GET YOU --MY BULLETS WILL!



DANGER IS A TRIGGER TO FIRE OFF **BATGIRL'S** ATHLETIC ABILITIES AS...

FIRE AWAY!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK AN UPSIDE-DOWN TARGET WILL BE ANY TOUGHER TO HIT THAN --



BUT EVEN AS THE FIRST SHOT RINGS OUT, THE **DOMINATED DAREDO** BACK-FLIPS AT HER TARGET...

I MISSED--

I DIDN'T!



ALERTED BY THE GUNSHOT, THE REST OF THE GANG RACES IN...

BATGIRL! THE NEWEST OF THE **GOTHAM GANGBUSTERS!**

HEY, YA DON'T SUPPOSE THIS MEANS **BATMAN'S** ANYWHERE AROUND?



AS THE CROOKS LEAP AT THE **MASKED MAIDEN...**

NEVER MIND ABOUT **BATMAN!** YOU HAVE ENOUGH ON YOUR HANDS HANDLING **BATGIRL!**



AGILE HANDS--TRAINED IN JUDO AND KARATE--LASH OUT WITH STUNNING FORCE...

SEE WHAT I MEAN, BOYS? I'M MORE THAN A HANDFUL FOR YOU!



YET BATGIRL FACES DESPERATE CRIMINALS --WHOSE VERY FEAR OF HER FIGHTING PROWESS GIVES THEM ADDED STRENGTH!...

I GOT HER!

ME TOO! WHATTA WE DO NOW?



TO PUT THE QUESTION MORE ACCURATELY-- "WHATTA WE DO NOW" THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE COMING HERE?

LOOK FOR YOURSELVES!

SHE'S RIGHT! THERE'S THE BATMOBILE!



WHATTA WE WORRIED ABOUT? THEY CAN'T GET HERE-- THE BRIDGE'S UNDER WATER!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT PROBLEM!

WITH A TERRIFIC TWIST OF HER GRIPPED WRISTS, THE BAT-BEAUTY SENDS THE CROOKS FLYING...



HAVE TO FLING ONE OF THESE THUGS JUST RIGHT--

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



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BATMAN ^{SLIDE}

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ARE MADE IN AMERICA

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- RUGGED ENOUGH FOR YEARS OF FUN!
- UNMATCHED VARIETY!
- VALUES THAT AREN'T EQUALED!

IF YOUR DEALER IS OUT
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SEND 25¢ TO DEPT. CTC7,
TYCO, WOODBURY HTS.,
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SEE THEM AT HOBBY SHOPS, TOY
AND DEPARTMENT STORES EVERYWHERE.

**TYCO'S THE REALLY HOT LINE
IN HO ROADRACING TOO!**

GO... **TYCO**

IT'S SO MUCH MORE FUN TO OWN THE VERY BEST!



BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor:

The July *Detective Comics*, featuring "The House The Joker Built," is the best Clown Prince of Crime tale published in the past two years. To be sure, it didn't have much competition from last November's "Original Robberies" yarn, yet this didn't put it down any. The *Crime Comic's* idea of using his robberies for a double purpose—that of the loot on hand, and the TV show profits—earned this yarn the bulk of its praise.

However close it did come to being flawless, the story was not quite perfect, one possible reason being the aura of camp throughout. No, there weren't any campy remarks from B or R, but still the effect was there, just detectable. This point is not to be dwelt on, having been resolved by *Batfen* already, but to quote Biljo White, who quoted someone else . . . "A Batman who's camp . . . can never be champ."

This yarn had all the earmarks of the last *Batman-Joker* encounter John Broome wrote in 1965, so I'll attribute it to the same author. A little humor in the occasional plot makes it smoother for the average reader.

So much for *Batman*. "The Crooks Who Captured Themselves" was a typical Foxy *Elongated Man* creation—merely great! Gardner F. Fox once again showed his prowess as a humorist almost as proficient as his rival (?) who wrote the B & R lead-off. The funniest part, I think, was on the last page wherein Sue stood back against the wall waiting for a kiss, or its *opposite*! Luckily for her the problem was solved with EM back to "super-normal"!

Sid Greene's fine illos, improved immensely since he started on the EM strip, were the clincher of the July issue which was all in all a precedent to be kept up in the future.

—Max Southall, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

(John Broome it was on the *Batman* yarn. Perhaps the "camp aura" can be explained by the fact it was the first *Batman* he had written in almost a year (he hibernates in Paris for the summer)—and he hadn't quite de-camped himself.—Editor

Dear Editor:

Occasionally the "fill-in" story surpasses the cover story in excellence (which actually happens quite often in *Batman* mags). Well, it happened again in *Detective* 365. The cover story, "The House The Joker Built," was way below DC's high standards. *Joker*, I feel, is an overused and rather boring villain. He has no motive for crime other than making a fool out of *Batman* and *Robin*, and his crimes often broaden my imagination. He committed no real act of crime that would warrant 6 or 7 years in jail, and the idea that any small-time crook would pay a \$100 fee for TV rental is ridiculous.

As for the *Elongated Man* yarn, it was great, a great improvement over the last story that Sid Greene penciled for *Detective* 361. The art work wasn't so comical, and Greene's word bubbles didn't clutter the page. 'Twas truly an excellent EM yarn.

—Charles H. Perkins, Cambridge, Mass.

(Funny how the *Joker* grabs people—leaving them either elated or deflated. For further contrary reactions to the *Thief of Bad Gags*, read on.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Well, hello there, *Joker*! Welcome back to civilization! After three duds, the *Joker* has finally found a place in the "New Look"! Prior to this epic, my favorite *Joker* battle was that of *Detective* 149, "The Sound-Effect Crimes". Unlike the ordinary *Batman* foes who steal for money and the *Brand I* villains who want to rule the world, the *Joker* steals because. That's it—just because! He's the only villain around whose motive goes without saying. Glory be! This story was the true *Batman*!

—Mark Evanier, Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Editor:

"The House the Joker Built" was acceptable, but some elements of its plot weren't. First of all, I can't swallow the idea that criminals are going to go out and buy all that *Joker* merchandise like T-shirts. Perhaps it would have been better if *Joker* ran a store selling lethal weapons of all sorts. I could swallow the bit about the *Joker-TV* show, but just barely. However, I liked the *Joker's* new gimmicks like that gas and the *Joker-shaped* house, and it was good to see *Batman* using an informer. The cover, as usual, was stupendous, and *Detective's* best so far this year.

—Peter Sanderson, Jr., Milton, Mass.

Dear Editor:

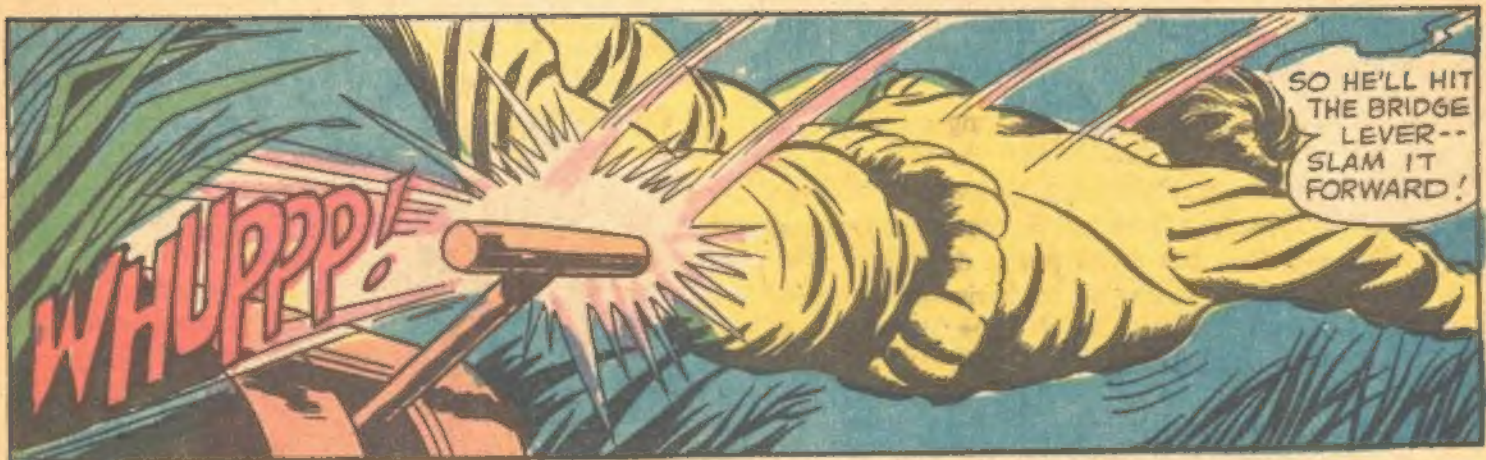
Detective 365 featuring "The House the Joker Built" was "an ace in the hole" for you people. The *Joker* acted as his usual insane, laughable self. I was delighted to see the *Crazy Criminal* try to undersell his products as to (almost) prevent people buying *Batman* merchandise. The way the *Funny Felon* continued to collect money from common thieves, crooks and robbers alike, in selling *Joker* merchandise was hilarious. Even having a *Joker-TV* show (now isn't that going a bit too far), showing *Batman* and *Robin* in the worst dilemmas, was too good to be true. Bravo DC, are the two words which every *Detective* reader should have exclaimed after devouring this story.

However, there is one point I would like to stress about publishing tales similar to this one. If Ye Editor continues doing this, you will soon begin to have less readers. The reason why is that all your fans (or rather should I say the majority of them) will literally die LAUGHING!!!!

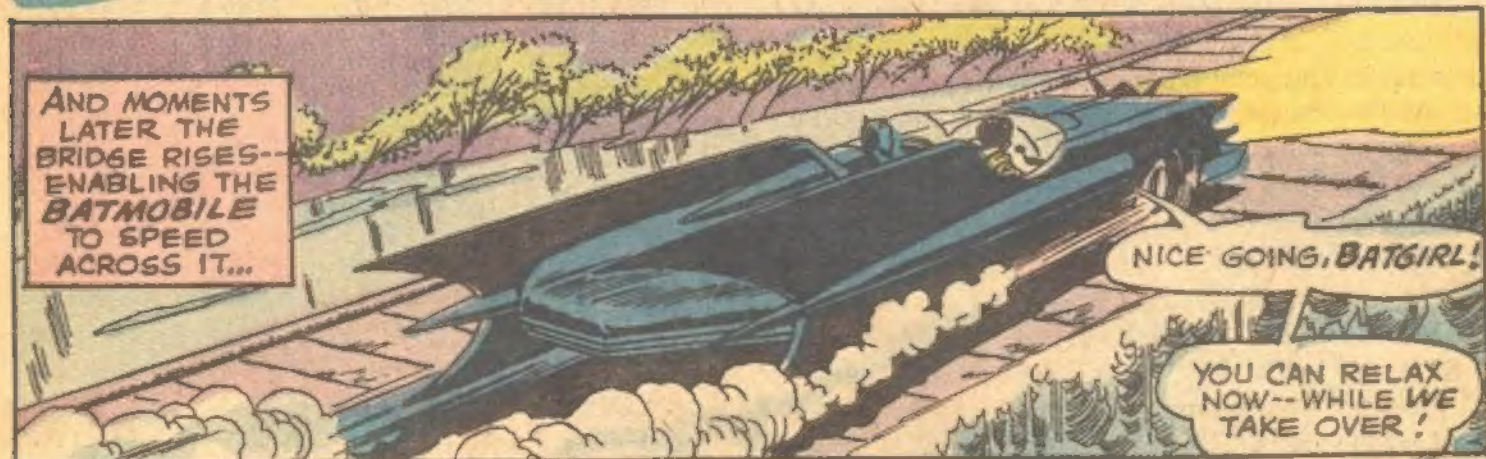
—Dan Dias, Santa Clara, Cal.

(And then the laugh would be on US! No readers, no job!—Editor)

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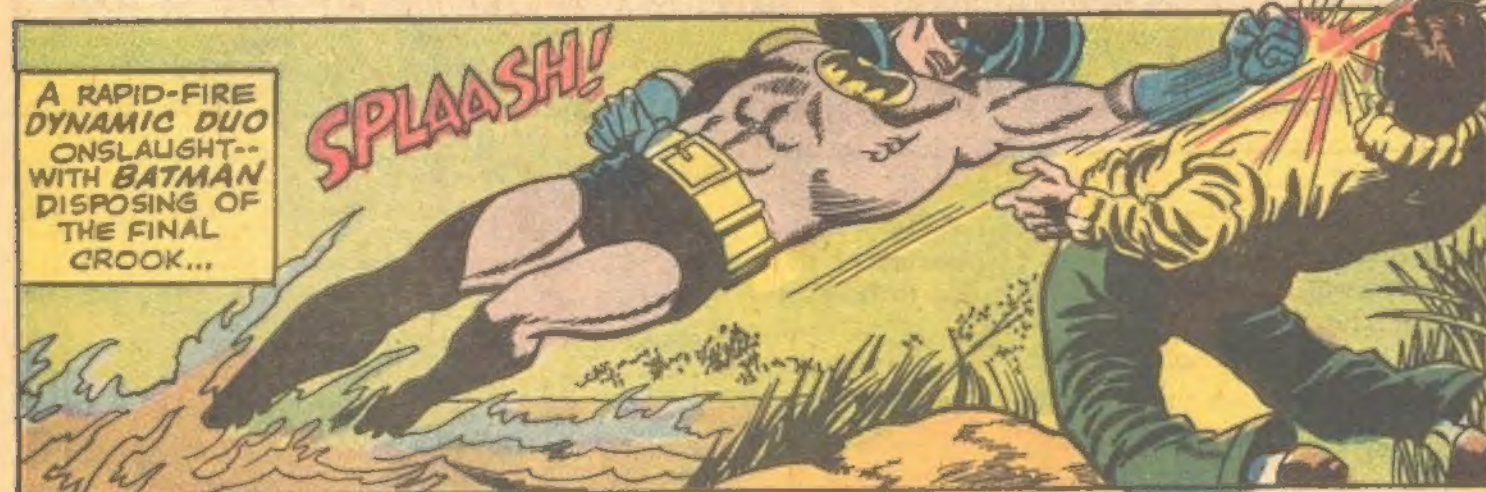
SO HE'LL HIT
THE BRIDGE
LEVER--
SLAM IT
FORWARD!



AND MOMENTS
LATER THE
BRIDGE RISES--
ENABLING THE
BATMOBILE
TO SPEED
ACROSS IT...

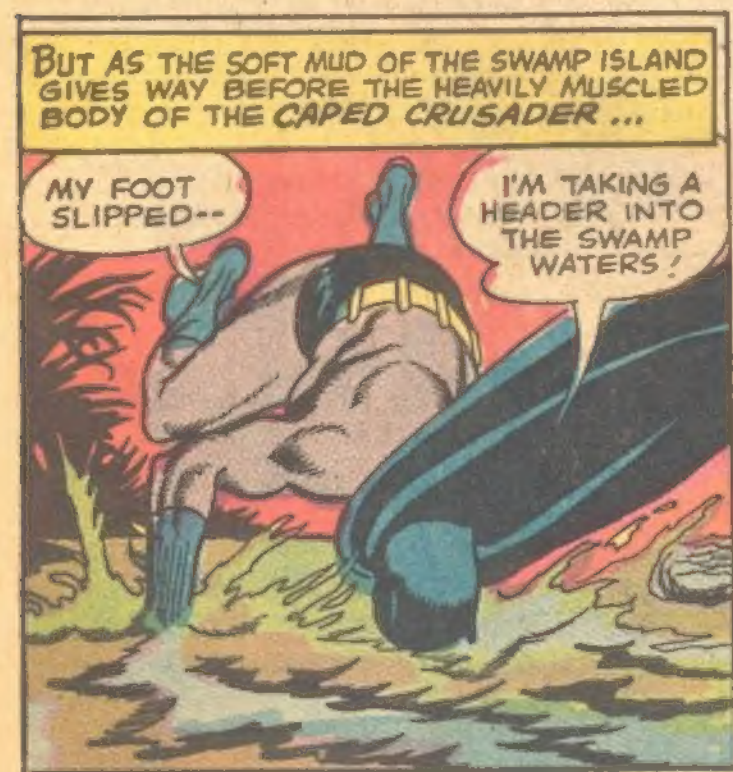
NICE GOING, **BATGIRL!**

YOU CAN RELAX
NOW--WHILE WE
TAKE OVER!



SPLAASH!

A RAPID-FIRE
DYNAMIC DUO
ONSLAUGHT--
WITH **BATMAN**
DISPOSING OF
THE FINAL
CROOK...



BUT AS THE SOFT MUD OF THE SWAMP ISLAND
GIVES WAY BEFORE THE HEAVILY MUSCLED
BODY OF THE **CAPED CRUSADER**...

MY FOOT
SLIPPED--

I'M TAKING A
HEADER INTO
THE SWAMP
WATERS!



READY HANDS ARE EXTENDED TO THE
FLOUNDERING CRIME-FIGHTER...

GRAB HOLD, **BATMAN!**
WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT
OF THERE IN A
JIFFY!

BRRR... THIS WATER'S
NOT THAT COLD! WHY
AM I SHIVERING?

AND IN ANSWER TO MUTUAL QUESTIONS ON WHAT BROUGHT EACH OF THEM TO THIS PLACE...

...AND SO THE TESTING OF MY MULTI-COLOR TRACKER BEAM LED ME ONTO THE TRAIL OF THESE CROOKS AND THEIR SWAMPLAND HIDEAWAY!

BATMAN'S CHILLS -- FOLLOWED BY THAT MUSTARD COMPLEXION ON HIS FACE! IS IT POSSIBLE--?

...WHILE OUR INVESTIGATION OF A SUDDEN, MYSTERIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH OUR BATMOBILE'S ELECTRONIC DEVICE LED US HERE!

IT'S CLEAR NOW THAT YOUR NEW TRACKER BEAM CAUSED THE INTERFERENCE! YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE AN ADJUSTMENT IN IT...

AS THE MASKED MANHUNTER BATCUFFS THE CRIMINALS...

ROBIN, I'M AFRAID THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH BATMAN!

SOMETHING WRONG...? BUT WHAT?

CAN'T TELL YOU NOW-- BUT LET ME KNOW WHAT ROUTE YOU'RE SCHEDULED TO TAKE TOMORROW NIGHT IN THE BATMOBILE SO I CAN TRAIL YOU!

SSSSH! HERE HE COMES!

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO-- BREAK IT UP! LET'S GET GOING!

WONDER WHAT THEY WERE GABBING ABOUT?

NEXT DAY, HEAD LIBRARIAN BARBARA (BATGIRL) GORDON, PH.D., IS HARD AT WORK IN THE MEDICAL RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE GOTHAM CITY LIBRARY...

WHAT I BELIEVE HAPPENED TO BATMAN IS TOO IMPORTANT TO RELY ON MY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY...

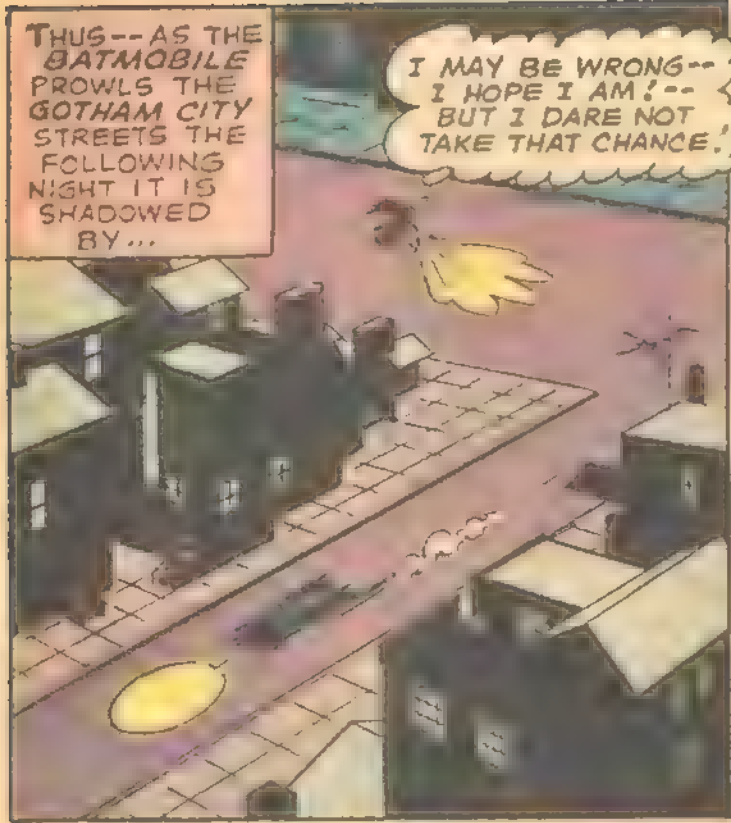
YES-- THE INITIAL SYMPTOMS ARE THE SAME-- CHILLS AND MUSTARD-COLOR COMPLEXION-- WHICH QUICKLY DISAPPEAR!

BATMAN'S COMING DOWN WITH A TYPE OF SWAMP FEVER!

RIGHT NOW HE'S GOING THROUGH AN INCUBATION PERIOD OF FROM ONE TO SEVEN DAYS-- WHEN NOT EVEN A DOCTOR CAN HELP HIM! WHEN HE GETS THE FULL FEVER, HE'S GOING TO COLLAPSE!

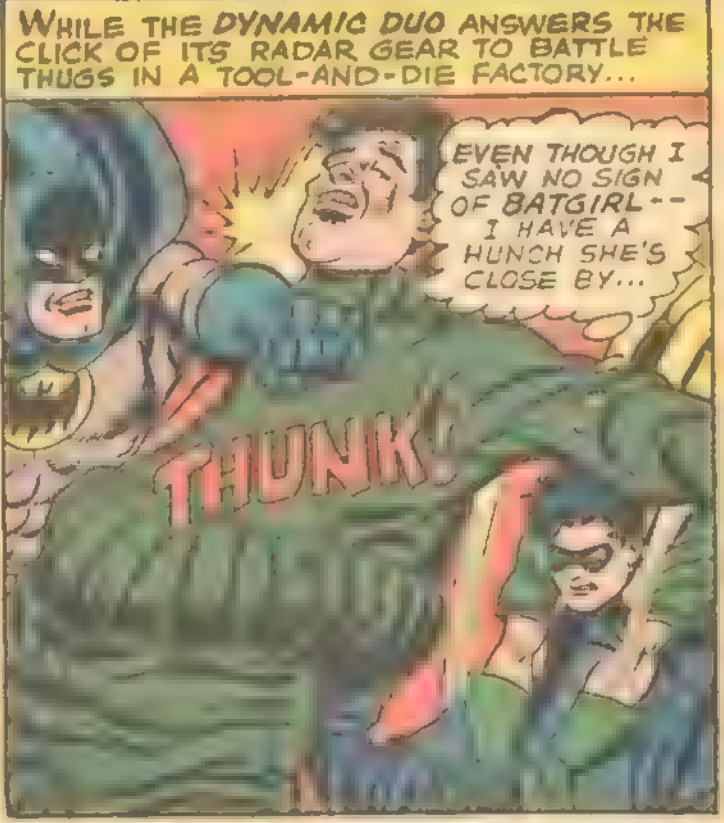
IF HE SHOULD COLLAPSE DURING THE DAY, THERE'S NO SERIOUS PROBLEM! BUT -- IF IT HAPPENS AT NIGHT, WHEN HE'S FIGHTING CROOKS -- HE'LL BE UNABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF AND OH! I HATE TO THINK WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM!

IT'S UP TO ME TO BE BATMAN'S SECRET "GUARDIAN ANGEL" -- SO THERE GO MY DATE-NIGHTS FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS!



THUG--AS THE BATMOBILE PROWLs THE GOTHAM CITY STREETS THE FOLLOWING NIGHT IT IS SHADOWED BY...

I MAY BE WRONG-- I HOPE I AM!-- BUT I DARE NOT TAKE THAT CHANCE!



WHILE THE DYNAMIC DUO ANSWERS THE CLICK OF ITS RADAR GEAR TO BATTLE THUGS IN A TOOL-AND-DIE FACTORY...

EVEN THOUGH I SAW NO SIGN OF BATGIRL-- I HAVE A HUNCH SHE'S CLOSE BY...

THUNK!



SURE ENOUGH-- THE CHIC CRIME-FIGHTER IS ON THE VERGE OF GOING INTO ACTION OUTSIDE THAT FACTORY...

ONE OF THE CROOKS--TRYING TO GET AWAY!

MIGHT AS WELL GET INTO PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES!



THE GREEN BAY PACKERS LOST A GREAT LINE-BACKER WHEN THEY DIDN'T PICK ME IN THE DRAFT!

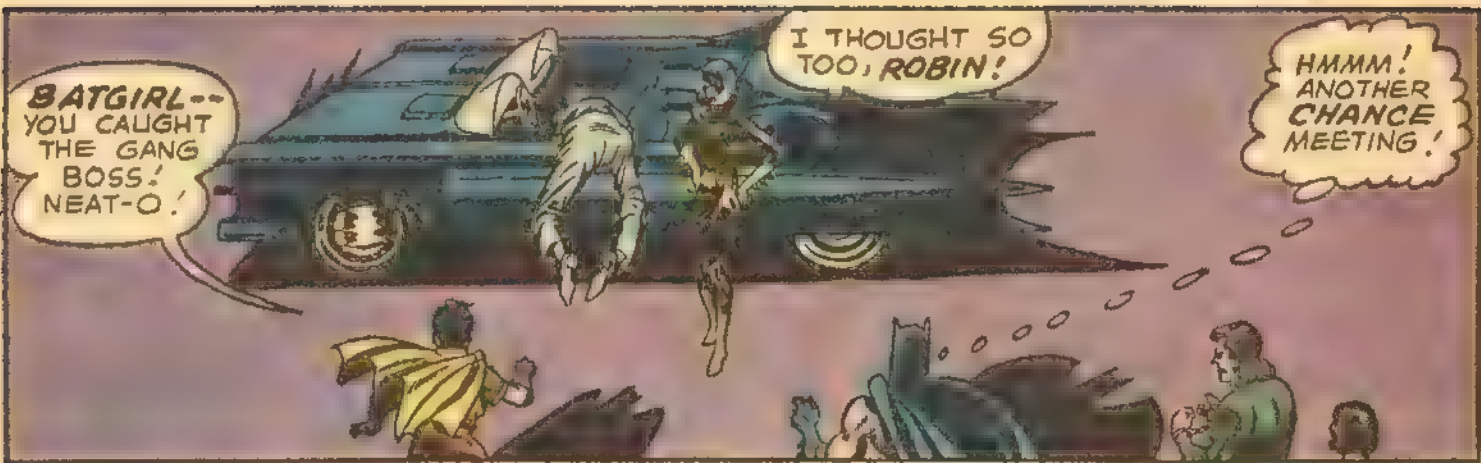
GNNNGGG!



WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN HERD THE CAPTURED CROOKS OUTSIDE...

TOO BAD THE RINGLEADER GOT AWAY--

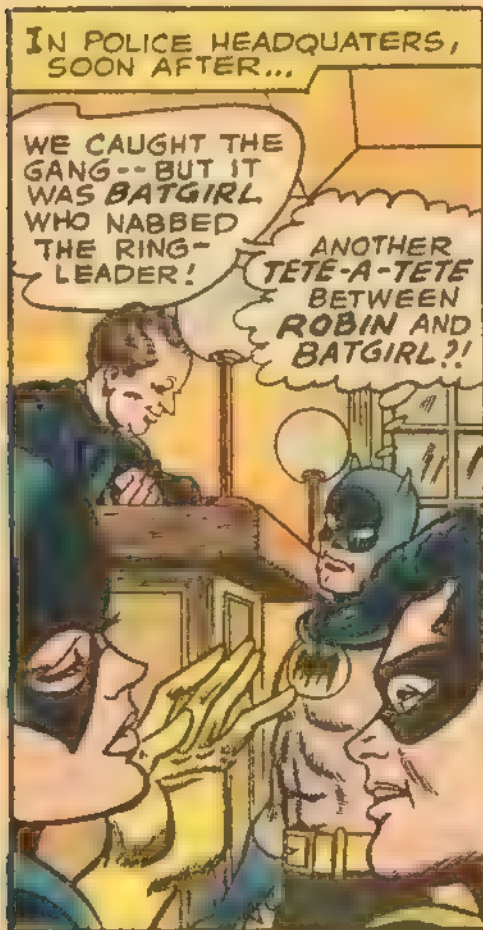
BUT HE DIDN'T, BATMAN!



BATGIRL--
YOU CAUGHT
THE GANG
BOSS!
NEAT-O!

I THOUGHT SO
TOO, **ROBIN!**

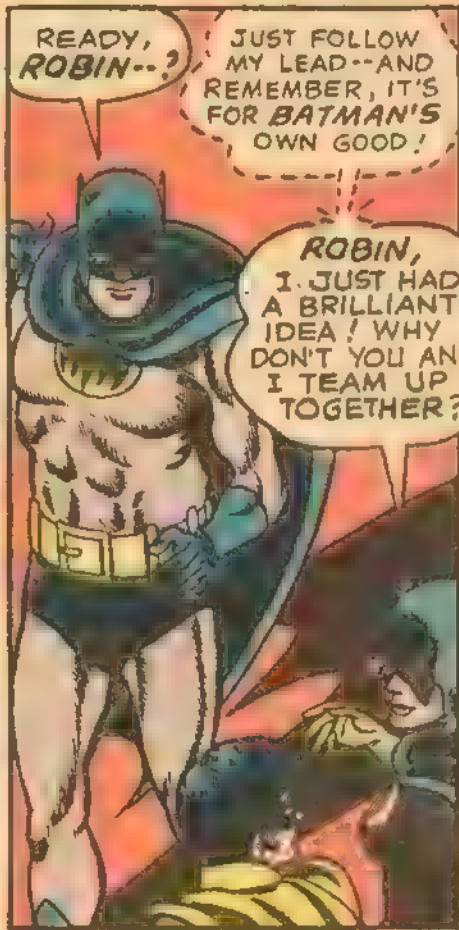
HMMM!
ANOTHER
CHANCE
MEETING!



IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
SOON AFTER...

WE CAUGHT THE
GANG-- BUT IT
WAS **BATGIRL**
WHO NABBED
THE RING-
LEADER!

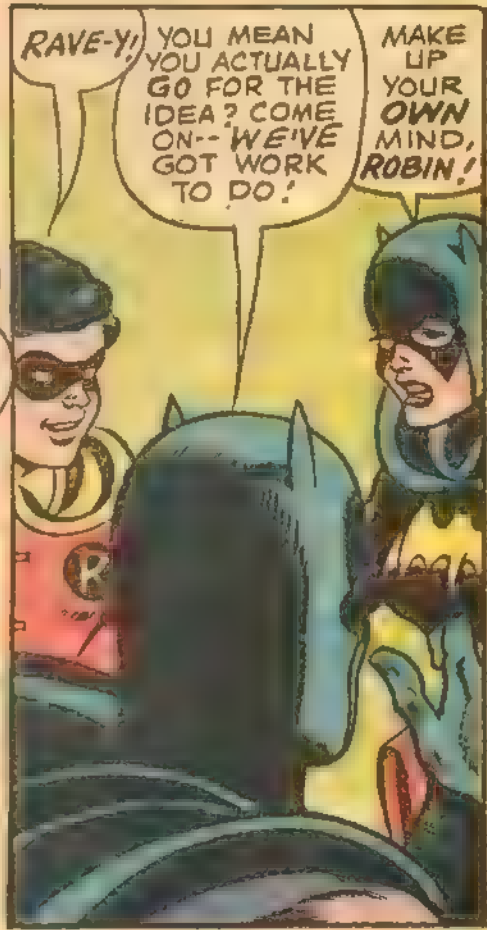
ANOTHER
TETE-A-TETE
BETWEEN
ROBIN AND
BATGIRL?!



READY,
ROBIN--?

JUST FOLLOW
MY LEAD--AND
REMEMBER, IT'S
FOR **BATMAN'S**
OWN GOOD!

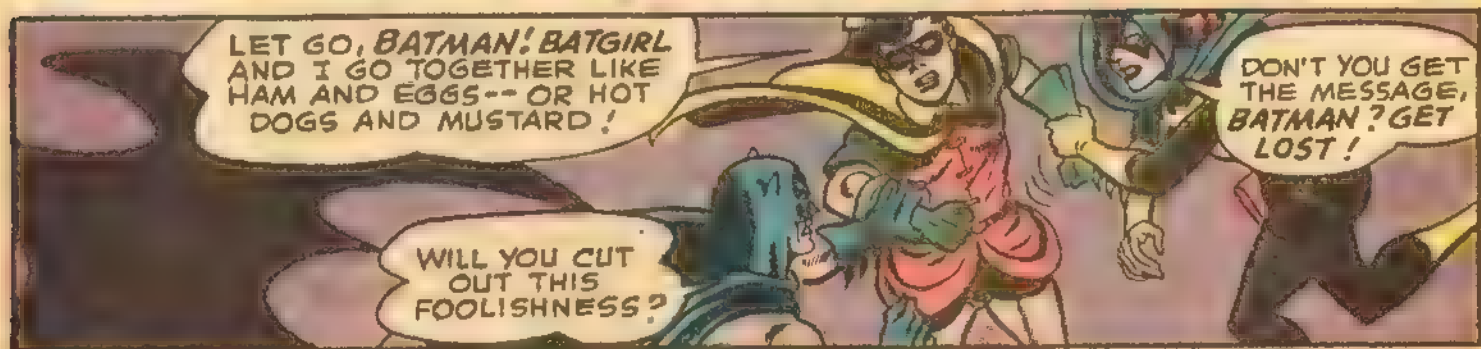
ROBIN,
I JUST HAD
A BRILLIANT
IDEA! WHY
DON'T YOU AND
I TEAM UP
TOGETHER?



RAVE-Y!

YOU MEAN
YOU ACTUALLY
GO FOR THE
IDEA? COME
ON-- WE'VE
GOT WORK
TO DO!

MAKE
UP
YOUR
OWN
MIND,
ROBIN!



LET GO, **BATMAN!** **BATGIRL**
AND I GO TOGETHER LIKE
HAM AND EGGS-- OR HOT
DOGS AND MUSTARD!

WILL YOU CUT
OUT THIS
FOOLISHNESS?

DON'T YOU GET
THE MESSAGE,
BATMAN? GET
LOST!



AND **ROBIN**
FINDS HIMSELF
CAUGHT IN A
TENSE TUG-
OF-WAR!...

HANDS OFF, BATMAN!
FROM NOW ON,
ROBIN WORKS
EXCLUSIVELY WITH ME!

YOU'VE LOST
YOUR SENSES
-- BOTH OF
YOU!

TO HIS UTTER AMAZEMENT, THE **CAPE CRUSADER** ACTUALLY FEELS THE **BOY WONDER** TUGGING AGAINST HIM...

LET GO, I TELL YOU! I REALLY WANT TO TEAM UP WITH **BAT-GIRL!**

ALL RIGHT--IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT...



I HATE DOING THIS TO **BATMAN**-- BUT IT'S FOR HIS OWN GOOD!

YOU WON'T BE SORRY, **ROBIN!**

WE'LL START OUR TEAM-UP TOMORROW NIGHT--AT EIGHT O'CLOCK!

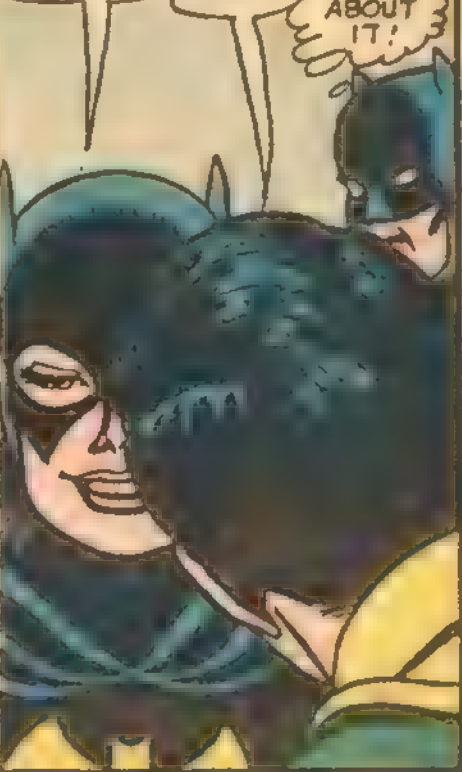


DON'T TELL ME **ROBIN'S** GOING TO HAVE HER PICK HIM UP AT THE **BAT-CAVE?** BESIDES HOW'S SHE EXPECT TO DRIVE HIM AROUND ON THAT MOTOR-BIKE BUILT FOR ONE?

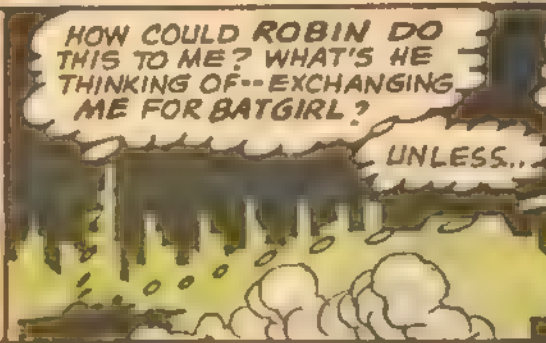
TELL YOU WHAT, **ROBIN!** LET'S MEET RIGHT HERE AT **POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS!**

WHAT-EVER YOU SAY, **BAT-GIRL!** I'LL BE HERE...

I'LL BE HERE TOO-- IF ONLY TO SEE HOW **BATGIRL** PLANS TO GO ABOUT IT!

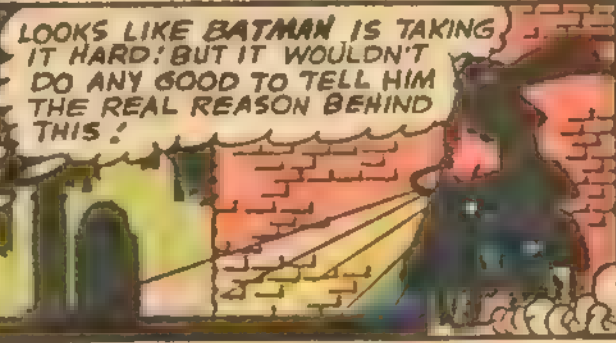


IN A STRAINED SILENCE--WITH **BATGIRL** ON HER MOTORBIKE SECRETLY SHADOWING THEM ALONG THE CITY STREETS--THE **DYNAMIC DUO** COMPLETES ITS UNEVENTFUL LAST PATROL...



HOW COULD **ROBIN** DO THIS TO ME? WHAT'S HE THINKING OF--EXCHANGING ME FOR **BATGIRL?**

UNLESS...



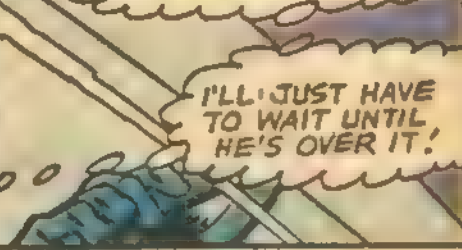
LOOKS LIKE **BATMAN** IS TAKING IT HARD! BUT IT WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD TO TELL HIM THE REAL REASON BEHIND THIS!

HE WOULDN'T QUIT AND TAKE IT EASY THE REST OF THE WEEK! RATHER THAN "LAY DOWN" ON THE JOB, HE'D KEEP ON GOING--NO MATTER WHAT DANGERS WERE IN STORE FOR HIM!



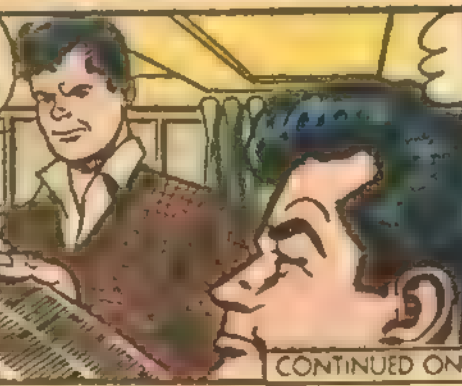
ROBIN'S GOT A CRUSH ON **BATGIRL!** SURE, THAT'S THE ANSWER!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE'S OVER IT!



THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

ALMOST READY FOR OUR PATROLS, **BRUCE!** HOW'S ABOUT DROPPING ME OFF AT **POLICE HEADQUARTERS** IN THE **BATMOBILE?**



DICK MAY HAVE LOST HIS SENSES-- BUT NOT HIS NERVE!

BUT I'LL SHOW HIM I'M A GOOD SPORT-- AS WELL AS A GOOD LOSER!

SPECTRE-ACULAR ANNOUNCEMENT!

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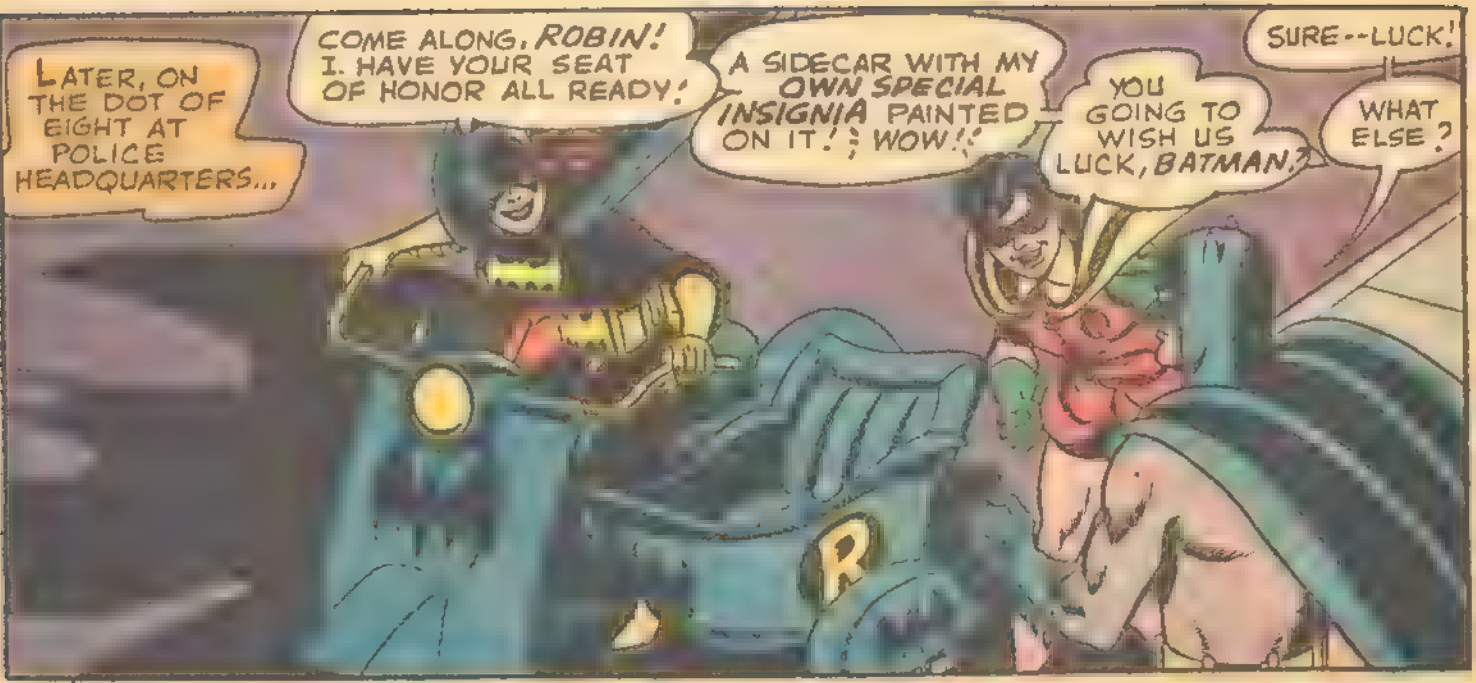
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LATER, ON THE DOT OF EIGHT AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

COME ALONG, ROBIN! I HAVE YOUR SEAT OF HONOR ALL READY!

A SIDECAR WITH MY OWN SPECIAL INSIGNIA PAINTED ON IT! WOW!!

YOU GOING TO WISH US LUCK, BATMAN?

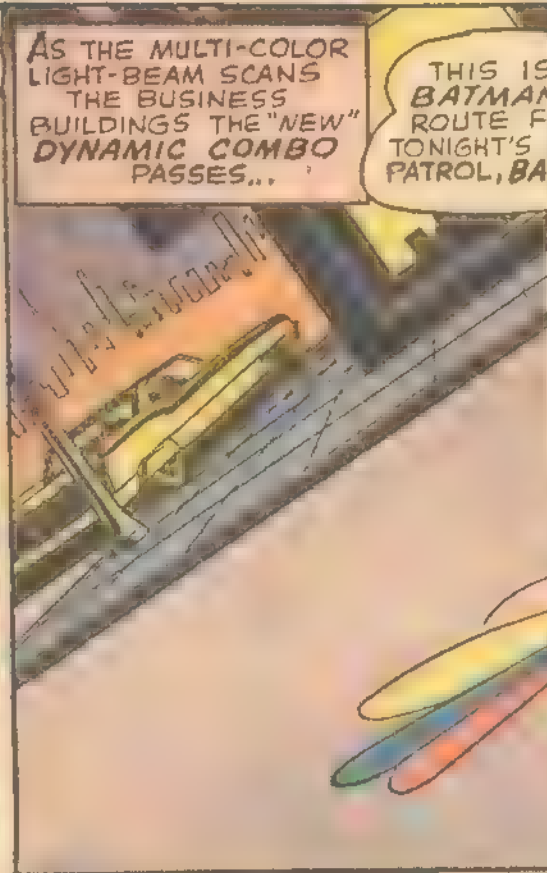
SURE--LUCK!

WHAT ELSE?



SO LONG, BATMAN! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

EVEN AT THE LAST MOMENT, I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE A GAG! BUT, NO--IT'S REALLY HAPPENING...



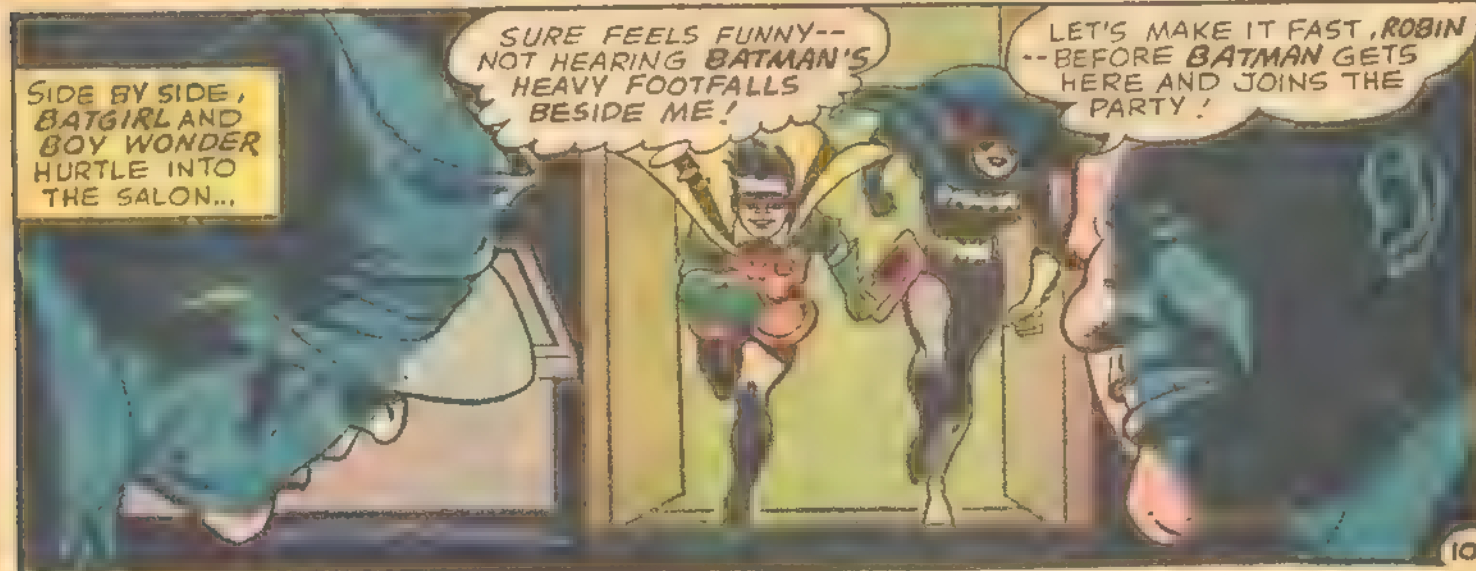
AS THE MULTI-COLOR LIGHT-BEAM SCANS THE BUSINESS BUILDINGS THE "NEW" DYNAMIC COMBO PASSES...

THIS IS BATMAN'S ROUTE FOR TONIGHT'S CRIME-PATROL, BATGIRL!

OUR JOB IS TO KEEP WELL AHEAD OF HIM, AND STOP ANY--



OH!! MY LIGHT-BEAMS ARE CHANGING! THAT MEANS CROOKED ACTIVITY GOING ON INSIDE THAT JEWEL SALON!



SIDE BY SIDE, BATGIRL AND BOY WONDER HURTLE INTO THE SALON...

SURE FEELS FUNNY-- NOT HEARING BATMAN'S HEAVY FOOTFALLS BESIDE ME!

LET'S MAKE IT FAST, ROBIN -- BEFORE BATMAN GETS HERE AND JOINS THE PARTY!

BATGIRL IS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT TO BEHOLD AS SHE FLIPS A FEARSOME FELON ...

I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO USE THE MINOR OUTER DROP I'VE BEEN PRACTICING--

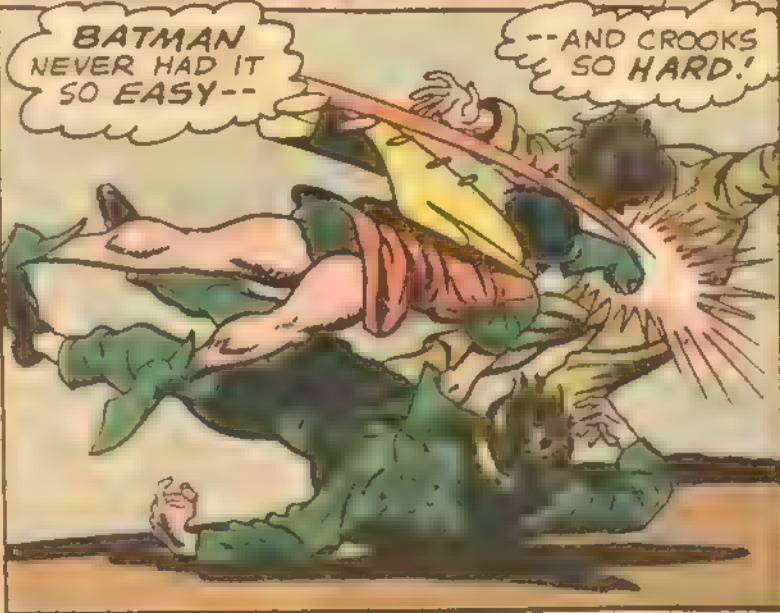
AH! PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!



WHILE **ROBIN** FIGHTS JUST AS WELL WITH-
OUT **BATMAN** AS HE DID WITH HIM ...

BATMAN NEVER HAD IT SO EASY--

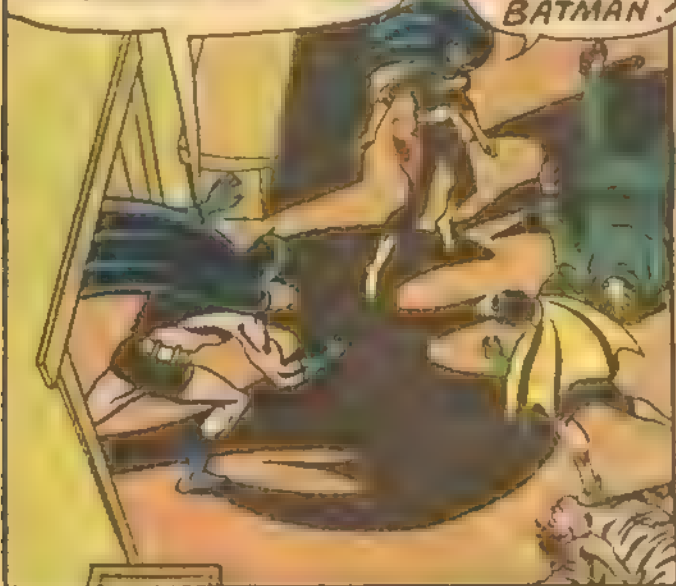
--AND CROOKS SO HARD!



SO BY THE TIME THE **CAPED CRUSADER** DASHES ONTO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...

YOU--BEAT ME TO IT! CONGRATULATIONS...

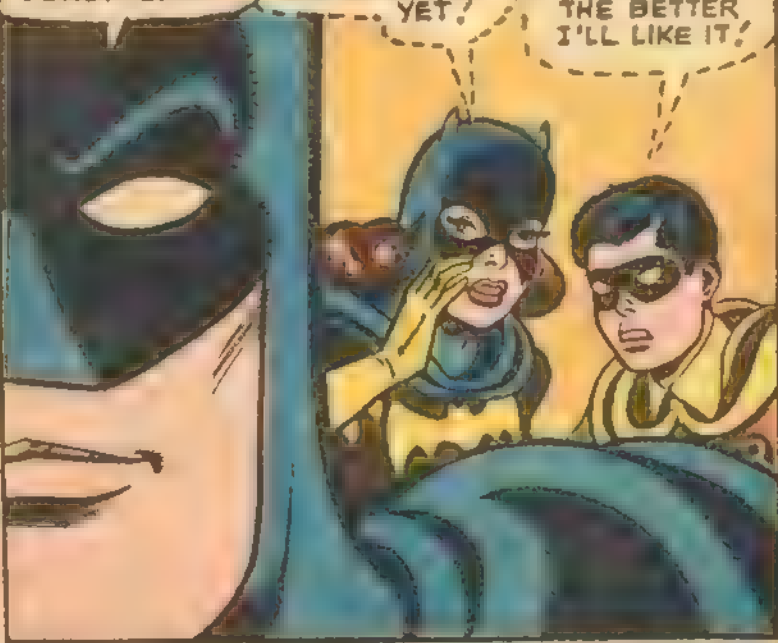
HOW DO YOU FEEL, **BATMAN**?



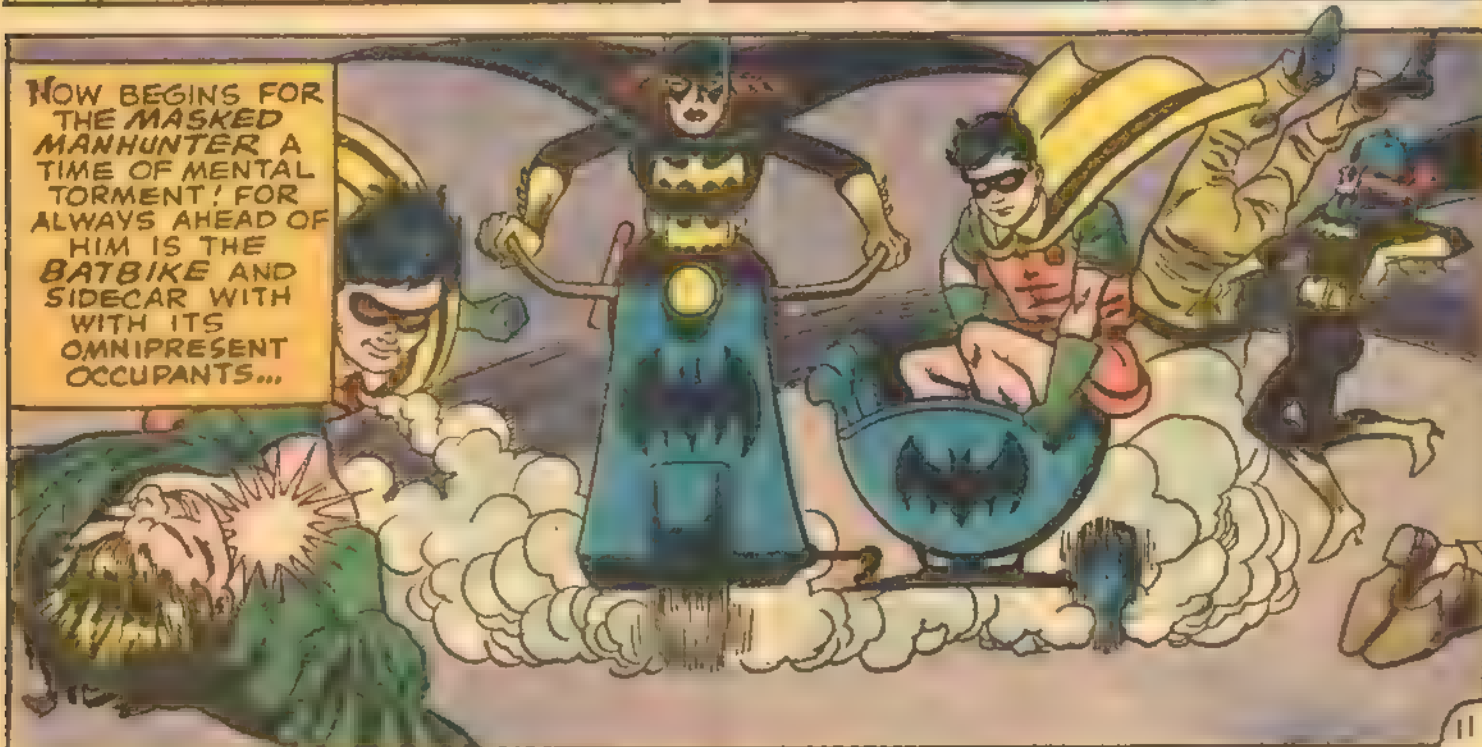
FINE--ALL THINGS CONSIDERED...

NO SIGN OF THE **SWAMP FEVER** TAKING EFFECT YET!

THE SOONER IT HITS HIM, THE BETTER I'LL LIKE IT!

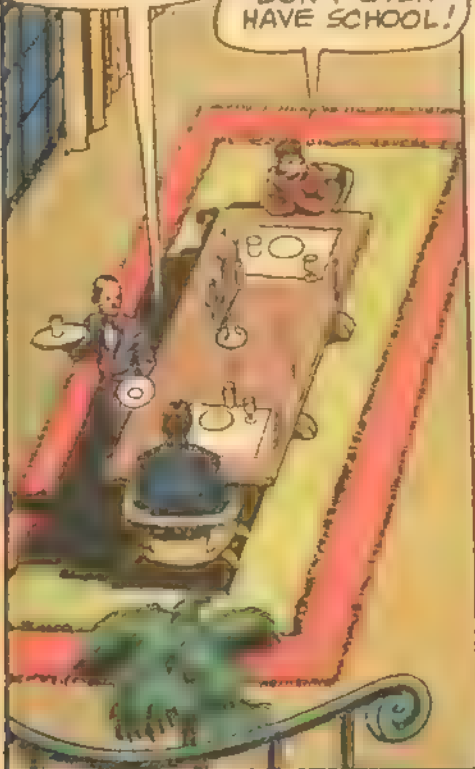


NOW BEGINS FOR THE **MASKED MANHUNTER** A TIME OF MENTAL TORMENT! FOR ALWAYS AHEAD OF HIM IS THE **BATBIKE** AND **SIDECAR** WITH ITS **OMNIPRESENT** OCCUPANTS...



ONCE IN A WHILE **BATMAN**--
AS **BRUCE WAYNE**--ATTEMPTS
TO BREAK UP THE CRIME--
FIGHTING PARTNERSHIP...

DICK, I SUGGEST YOU STAY HOME TONIGHT AND DO YOUR HOMEWORK--
WE HAVE NO HOME-WORK FOR TOMORROW, BRUCE! WE DON'T EVEN HAVE SCHOOL!



EH? BUT TOMORROW ISN'T A HOLIDAY!

TRUE--BUT THERE'S A **TEACHERS' CONFERENCE** AND WE ALWAYS GET A DAY LIKE THAT OFF!

CH...

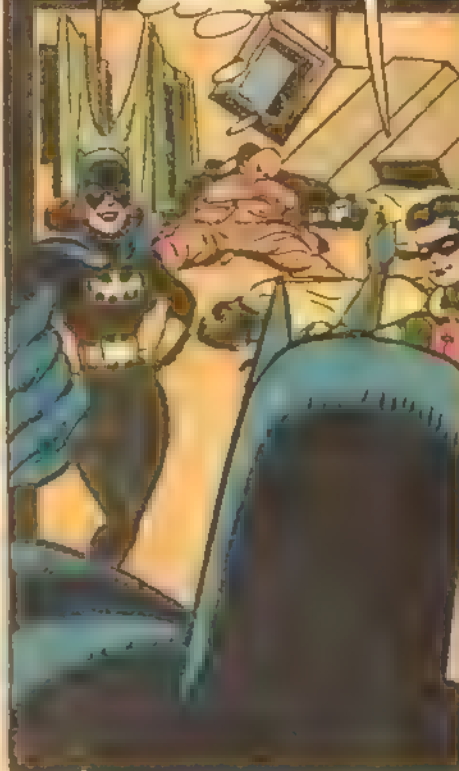


NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE STORY IS THE SAME...

WELL, HELLO THERE!

GOOD TO SEE YOU, EX-PARTNER!

SCOOPED AGAIN!

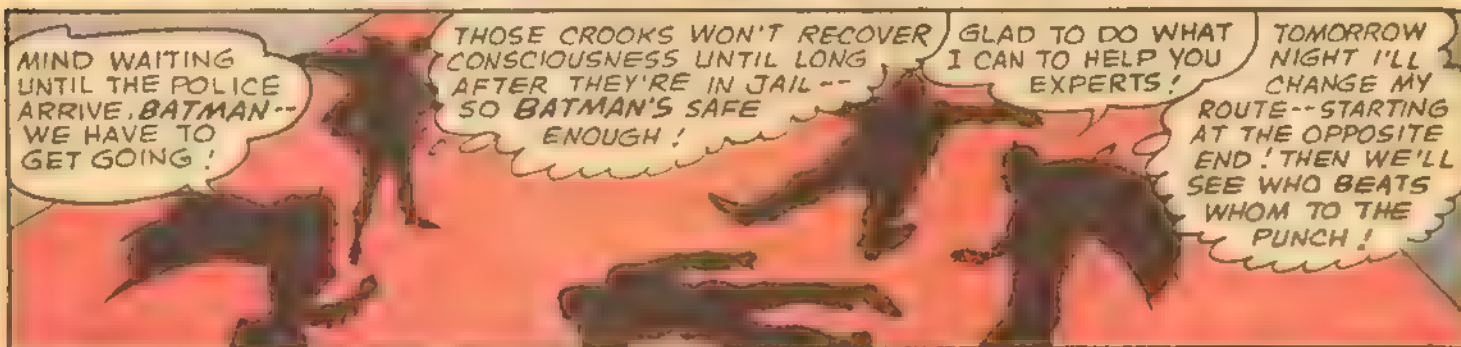


MIND WAITING UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE. **BATMAN**--WE HAVE TO GET GOING!

THOSE CROOKS WON'T RECOVER CONSCIOUSNESS UNTIL LONG AFTER THEY'RE IN JAIL--SO **BATMAN'S** SAFE ENOUGH!

GLAD TO DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP YOU EXPERTS!

TOMORROW NIGHT I'LL CHANGE MY ROUTE--STARTING AT THE OPPOSITE END! THEN WE'LL SEE WHO BEATS WHOM TO THE PUNCH!

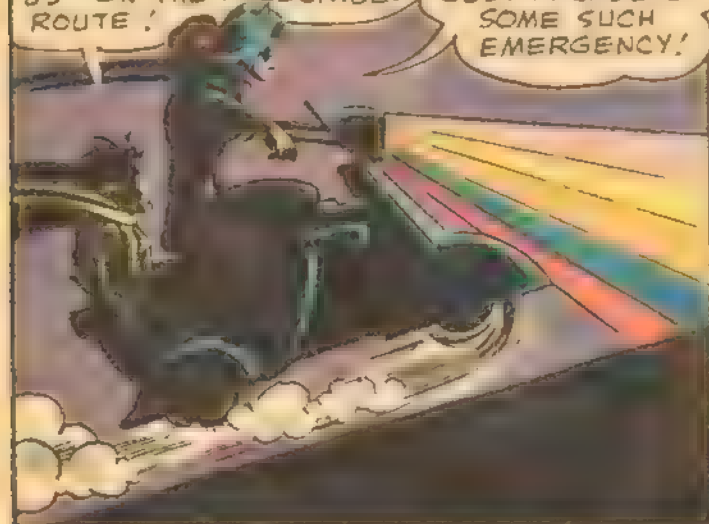


THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

BATGIRL--HE'S TRICKED US!

BATMAN'S NOT FOLLOWING US--ON THE PRESCRIBED ROUTE!

I CAN TRACK HIM! I'VE ADJUSTED MY MULTI-COLOR LIGHT-BEAM TRACER TO THE **BATMOBILE**... JUST IN CASE OF SOME SUCH EMERGENCY!

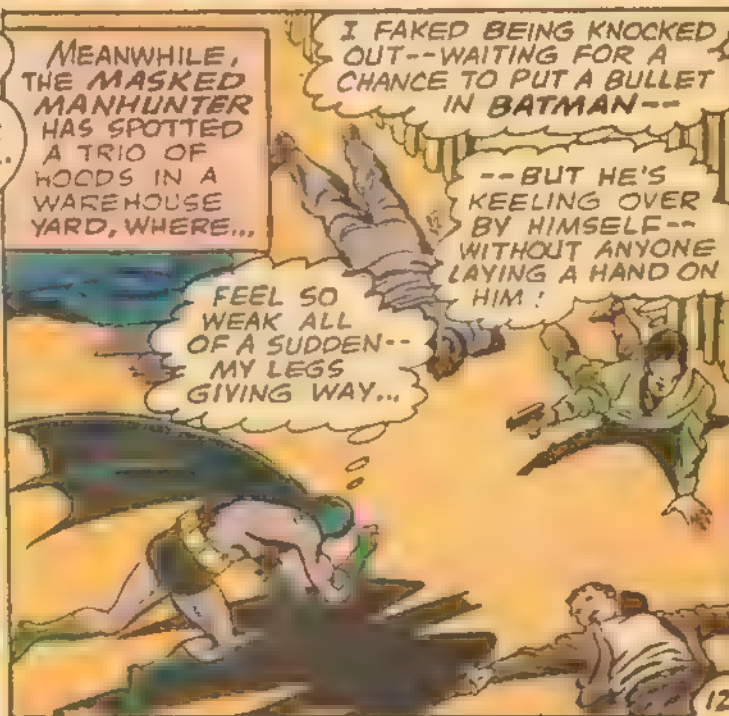


MEANWHILE, THE **MASKED MANHUNTER** HAS SPOTTED A TRIO OF HOODS IN A WAREHOUSE YARD, WHERE...

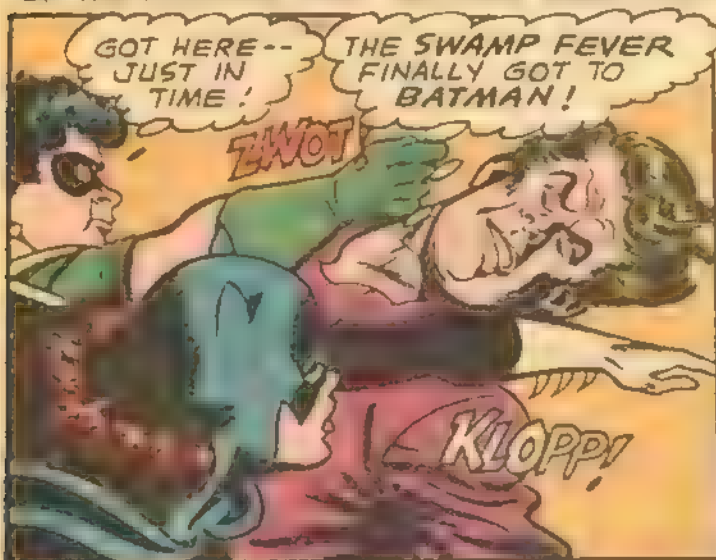
I FAKED BEING KNOCKED OUT--WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO PUT A BULLET IN **BATMAN**--

--BUT HE'S KEELING OVER BY HIMSELF--WITHOUT ANYONE LAYING A HAND ON HIM!

FEEL SO WEAK ALL OF A SUDDEN--MY LEGS GIVING WAY...



BUT BEFORE THE GUNMAN CAN FIRE--OUT OF THE SHADOWS LEAP TWO GRIM GUARDIANS...



GOT HERE--
JUST IN
TIME!

THE SWAMP FEVER
FINALLY GOT TO
BATMAN!

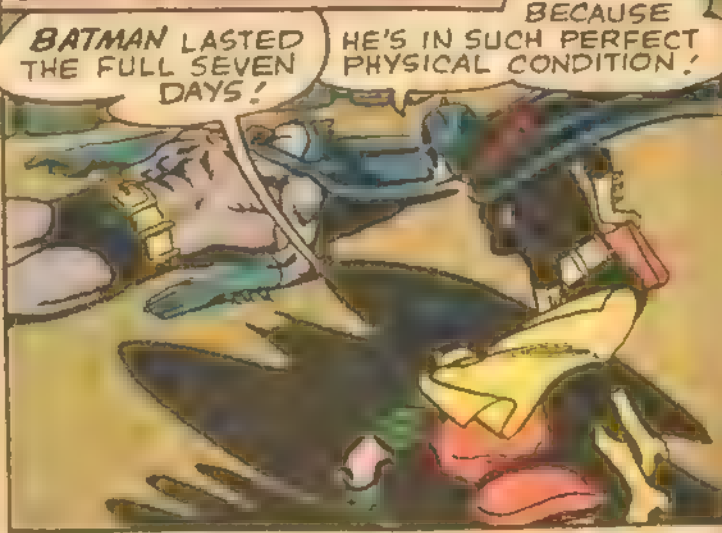
ZWOOT!

KLOPP!

GREEN GLOVE AND GOLDEN GLOVE HAVE HIT IN UNISON! NOBODY--BUT NOBODY COULD STAND UP AGAINST THAT!!...

BATMAN LASTED THE FULL SEVEN DAYS!

BECAUSE HE'S IN SUCH PERFECT PHYSICAL CONDITION!

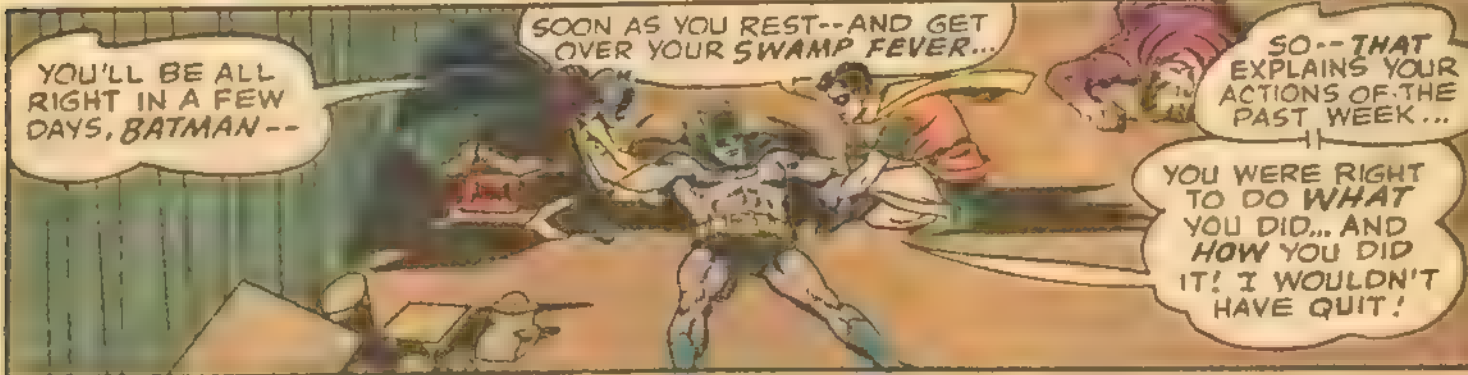


YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A FEW DAYS, BATMAN--

SOON AS YOU REST--AND GET OVER YOUR SWAMP FEVER...

SO-- THAT EXPLAINS YOUR ACTIONS OF THE PAST WEEK...

YOU WERE RIGHT TO DO WHAT YOU DID... AND HOW YOU DID IT! I WOULDN'T HAVE QUIT!

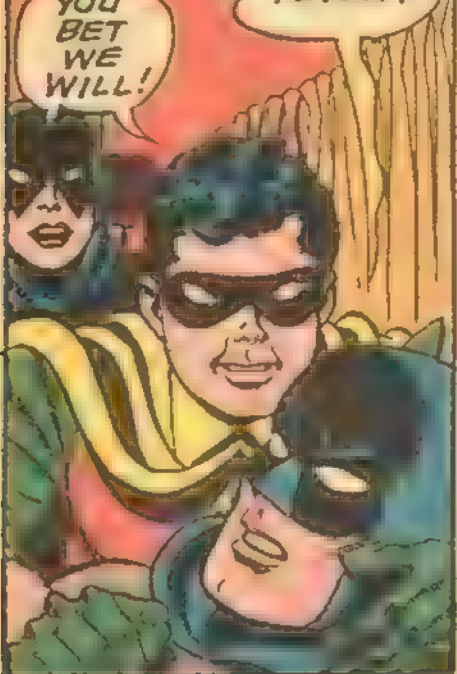


IN A SMALL VOICE, THE MASKED MANHUNTER MAKES HIS PLEA...

I ADMIT--I RESENTED YOU TWO TEAMING UP--BUT NOW--

--WOULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND TAKE OVER IN MY PLACE--TILL I GET RID OF THIS SWAMP FEVER?

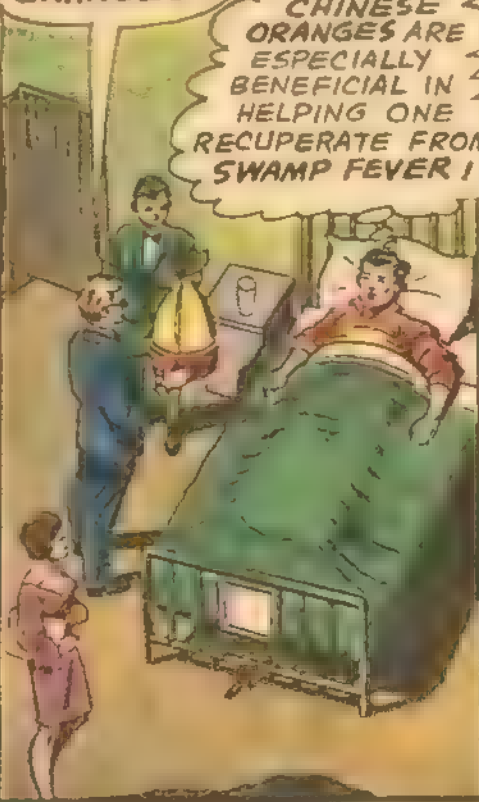
YOU BET WE WILL!



TWO DAYS LATER, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON AND HIS DAUGHTER BARBARA PAY A SICK CALL TO THEIR FRIEND BRUCE WAYNE...

WE BROUGHT YOU A RARE TREAT, BRUCE-- CHINESE ORANGES!

ODD! I'VE BEEN READING UP ON SWAMP FEVER--AND CHINESE ORANGES ARE ESPECIALLY BENEFICIAL IN HELPING ONE RECUPERATE FROM SWAMP FEVER!



AFTER THEIR VISITORS HAVE GONE...

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, DICK? IS IT POSSIBLE--THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS--COMMISSIONER GORDON SUSPECTS I'M BATMAN?

WOULDN'T THAT BE SOMETHING!



ELSEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY ON THIS SAME DAY...

LOOKS TO ME LIKE BATGIRL IS MAKING A PLAY FOR BATMAN!

GOOTHAM NEWS

BATGIRL SCORES AGAIN!
COMPLIMENTED BY
CAPED CRUSADER

SHE HAS HER NERVE--TRYING TO CUT HERSELF IN ON MY MAN!

I'VE KNOWN BATMAN A LOT LONGER THAN THAT, JILL--COME--LATELY!

IF HE BELONGS TO ANYBODY, HE BELONGS TO...

...CATWOMAN!!

NERVE YOURSELF FOR A STRUGGLE OF CAT'S CLAW AND BAT'S BOP WHEN BATGIRL AND CATWOMAN TANGLE FOR POSSESSION OF THE CAPED CRUSADER IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF **BATMAN**—ON SALE OCTOBER 1974

CAP'S HOBBY HINTS



HOW TO DO IT BETTER

KIDS! MAIL IN YOUR HOBBY HINTS TO: CAP'S, NATIONAL COMICS, 575 LEXINGTON AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE \$5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.

I BOUGHT THIS CAN OF SPRAY PAINT. I'M GOING HOME NOW TO USE IT ON ONE OF MY MODELS.

HERE'S A TIP ON SPRAY PAINTING CAP OF THE HOBBY SHOP GAVE ME.

BEFORE YOU USE SPRAY PAINT, RUN HOT WATER OVER THE CAN FOR ABOUT 30 SECONDS.

SEE! THE RESULT IS A FINER SPRAY OF PAINT AND COMES OUT A NEATER JOB!

BATMAN'S HOT-LINE — EXTRA

Dear Editor:

Batman is not *Captain America*. While *Cap*, like so many other Simon & Kirby creations (like *Challengers of the Unknown*) is simply brawn in action, *Batman* is a detective who uses his muscles when necessary.

Because he is a detective first and foremost, *Batman* has a butler to relieve him of worldly affairs, an awful lot of money, and a partner. Holmes had Watson, Poirot had Hastings and *Batman* has *Robin*. If you notice, none of the great detectives of fiction had girls. Not Holmes, not Father Brown, not even Ellery Queen get the girl in the last chapter. Neither should *Batman*.

I say out with *Batgirl*. Her basic premise is poor. A gorgeous girl who dresses mod and works in a busy library gets noticed a lot more than the average secretary. Her motivation is poor—her father should have taught her that fighting crime isn't fun. As a matter of fact, the only reason I can think of for her existence is the tie-in to the TV show next Fall.

As a romantic heroine, she comes from a long line of duds. *Catwoman's* passé; *Vicki Vale* is too much like *Lois Lane*; *Kathy Kane*—*Batwoman*—was a flop. Even *Poison Ivy* didn't make it. *Pat Powell* was a good idea, but the fans didn't think much of it. I don't think *Batman* should have to suffer another heroine. They just don't go with the *Batman* image.

The two *Batgirl* stories have been good but they were built on a shaky foundation. Relegate *Batgirl* to the *Teen Titans*, and I'll be happy.

—Dan Meskur, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

(You been *Batgirl*-ed again this issue—not only because of the TV tie-in (a legitimate enough reason) but because she makes darn good copy!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I'm sick and tired of people downrating and degrading *Batman* and *Robin*! I recall one letter-writer in *World's Finest* stating that he didn't see how *Superman* could have any use for *Batman*, in the effect that *Batman* has no super-powers. Well, this may shock you, but that's the very reason I love *Batman* and *Detective Comics*.

In this day and age the general public takes it for granted that a hero must have super-powers to be anything beyond the ordinary. But we faithful *Batman* fans (maybe not old fans, but faithful none the less) can easily tell you differently. I honestly think that if you give *Batman* and *Robin* super-powers in any size, form or shape, your fans would drop by the thousands.

It just goes to show you that anyone with brains could make good use of them in the genuinely priceless fashion that *B* and *R* have used theirs. Half the interest of your mags is seeing how *Batman* and *Robin* use their sharp wits and ingenious utilities to solve the most baffling crimes.

Don't get me wrong, though. I'm hardly trying to slight your other mags where the heroes have super-powers, I'm just saying that *Batman* and *Robin* are just fine the way they are. And I'm ill from all this ostracizing.

—Sheila Horne, Baltimore, Md.

Dear Editor:

This is a letter, not to you or any of the wonderful staff who make *Batman* come alive on the pages of *Detective*, but to one Randy Cleveland of Houston, Tex., and others like him who think along the same lines. If you are suggesting that *Batman* and *Robin* should use stronger language, go soak your head. A

knowledgeable person, as Bruce Wayne is, knows that swearing is only used by supposedly ignorant people with a muchly lacking vocabulary. Naturally, Dick as his ward and being with him as both Bruce and *Batman*, has picked up his good habits. If only more young people would do the same!

As long as I've read *Detective* (about 4 years now) both Dick and Robin have proven to be one (or is it two?) of the finest complements to the younger generation. Any thoughts about being wishy-washy are quickly dispelled when *Robin* goes into action, solo or duo. If you ever decide you don't need him any more, you guys at DC can send him to my school to teach the boys a few manners.

Thank you very much for reading my letter, and thank you also for the fine quality in all DC mags.

—Nikki Ballard, East Jordan, Mich.

Dear Editor:

I only recently chanced to read Issue 363 of *Detective*, which contained the *Elongated Man* tale concerning UHF radio waves. I thought perhaps the following incident, which was related in a college Biology course, might be of interest to you and to the author, Mr. Fox.

The Professor was discussing a course he had taken when he was a graduate student. He said that he entered the lecture hall where the class was held and had barely taken his place, when he felt an overwhelming urge to slug the student sitting next to him. Throughout the hall, similar urges to scream, cry, laugh, fight, etc., were being rather obviously manifested. This tantalizing turmoil continued for a few minutes, then came to an abrupt halt, leaving the students more or less back to normal but thoroughly confused. Our Professor said that the teacher then came in and explained the "experiment". He had been broadcasting sounds over the hall's loudspeaker system, sounds so low that the human ear could not detect them but the human nervous system (I think he said the nervous system) very obviously could. And, of course, it had been the sounds that had produced the unusual emotional reactions.

I would guess that this experiment took place something over ten years ago. It seems, however, that something along the same frequency will be being transmitted again in the near future. For Mr. Fox just about promised us another reverberating tale, and it would seem sound thinking to keep him switched onto this wave-length.

—Moirra L. Maynard, St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Editor:

HECK! What's the use of the kids that never get their letters printed or writing to you? I'm one of the unfortunates. I know how it feels to send in a postcard, wait till that certain ish comes out, buy it, look in it, and see that you didn't print the comments. Well, maybe next time. You go home to your parents, and they say, "Did you get your letter printed?" You tell them no, then get ball and bat thrown at you for wasting your umpteenth postcard.

Quit using regulars and put the *irregulars* in! Not just *me*—but every "unfortunate"!

Nevertheless, we must keep on trying and hoping. Stay in and try, unfortunates!

—Mac Saum, Bethel, Alaska.

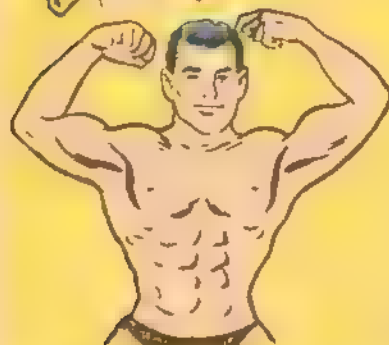
(Congratulations! You have just joined the ranks of the *fortunates*!—Editor)

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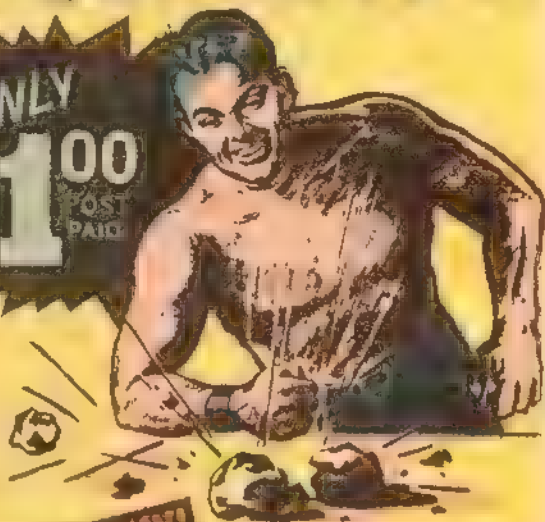
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☐ ENCLOSED IS MY \$1.00 ☐ TWO BOOKS FOR ONLY \$1.95
NO C.O.D.'S (PLEASE PRINT)

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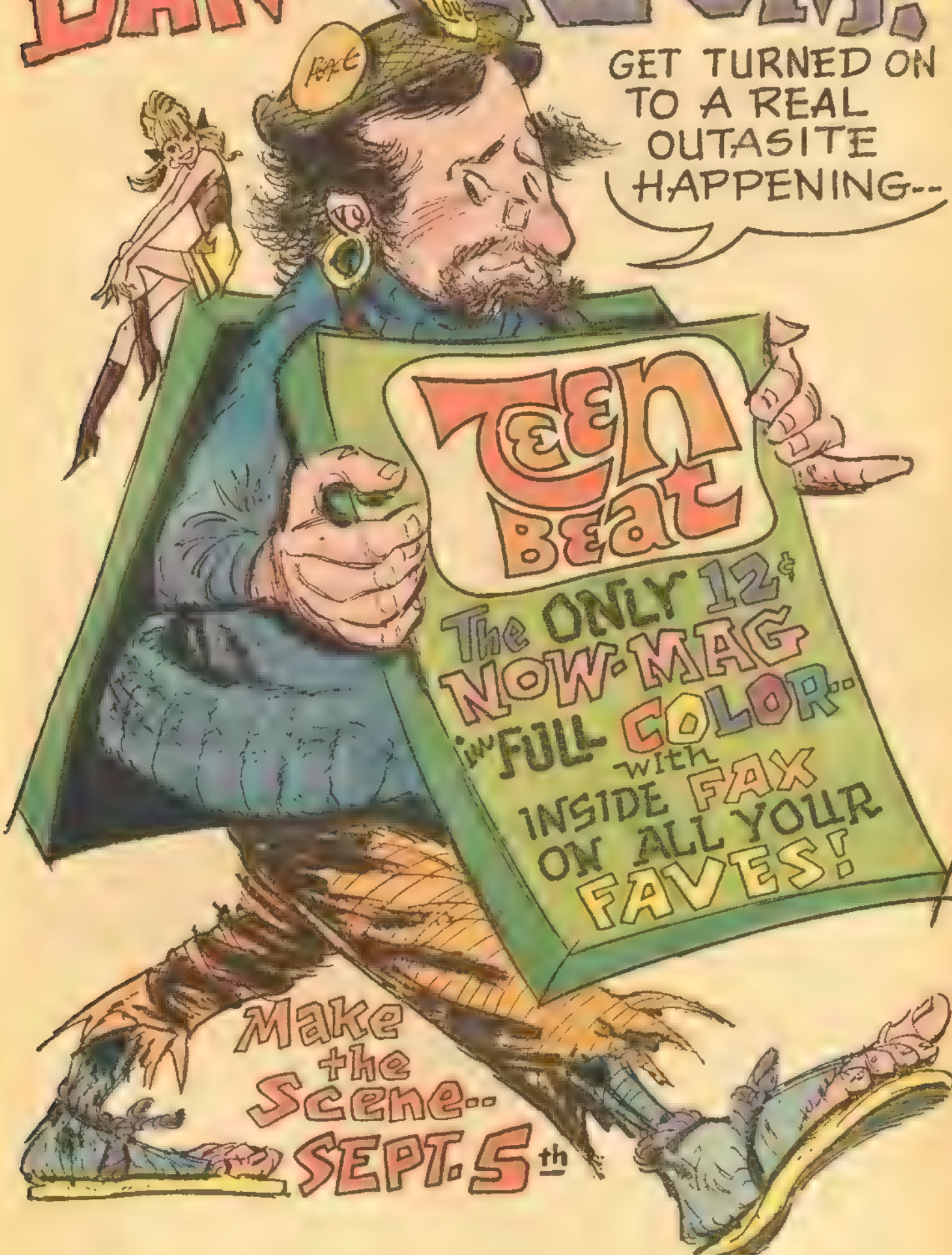
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

BAN GLOOM!

GET TURNED ON
TO A REAL
OUTASITE
HAPPENING--



Make
the
Scene..
SEPT. 5th

The ELONGATED Man

CHONK
CRACK

POW

WHY IS IT SO EASY
FOR ME TO STOP FOUR
BIG-TIME CROOKS COMMITTING
A ROBBERY--WHEN IT'S
SO UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE
TO PREVENT A SINGLE
SNEAK-THIEF FROM
ROBBING MY WIFE!

WHUMP

OUTWARDLY, NO ONE IS A BIGGER
BOOSTER OF THE ELONGATED MAN
THAN HIS WIFE SUE DIBNY!

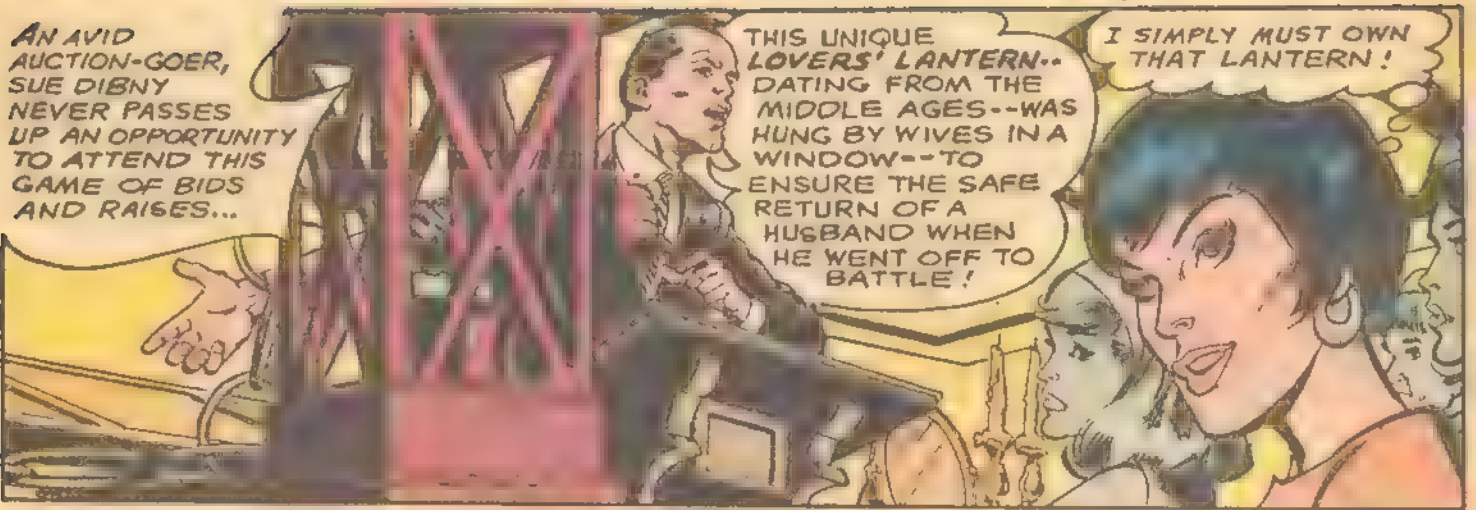
INWARDLY, SHE'S ALWAYS
CONCERNED FOR HIS SAFETY WHEN
HE LEAVES HER TO TACKLE A
BAFFLING MYSTERY AND ARMED
CRIMINALS!

IS IT ANY WONDER THEN THAT
SHE SWALLOWS AN OLD-TIME
SUPERSTITION THAT'S SUPPOSED
TO ENSURE THE SAFE RETURN
OF A LOVED ONE?

Story by
Gardner Fox
Art by
Neal
Adams

Legend of the LOVERS' Lantern!

AN AVID AUCTION-GOER, SUE DIBNY NEVER PASSES UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THIS GAME OF BIDS AND RAISES...



THIS UNIQUE LOVERS' LANTERN-- DATING FROM THE MIDDLE AGES-- WAS HUNG BY WIVES IN A WINDOW-- TO ENSURE THE SAFE RETURN OF A HUSBAND WHEN HE WENT OFF TO BATTLE!

I SIMPLY MUST OWN THAT LANTERN!

EVERYTIME MY HUSBAND RALPH GOES OFF TO BATTLE CROOKS AS THE ELONGATED MAN, I WORRY ABOUT HIS SAFETY...



MAYBE THAT LANTERN WILL HELP-- EVEN IF IT IS SHEER SUPERSTITION!

I BID \$10!

AFTER SOME SPIRITED BIDDING...

SOLD TO THE LADY FOR SEVENTY DOLLARS!

IT'S MORE THAN I INTENDED TO SPEND-- BUT IT'S WORTH IT!



HER WRAPPED PURCHASE CLUTCHED UNDER AN ARM, SHE LEAVES THE AUCTION GALLERY...

RALPH SAID TO MEET HIM HERE AT FOUR! IT'S JUST ABOUT THAT NOW!



SUDDENLY-- FROM BEHIND HER-- TWO HANDS DART OUT WITH SKILLFUL SPEED AND...

OHNN! SOMEONE STOLE THE LANTERN-- RIGHT OUT OF MY ARM!

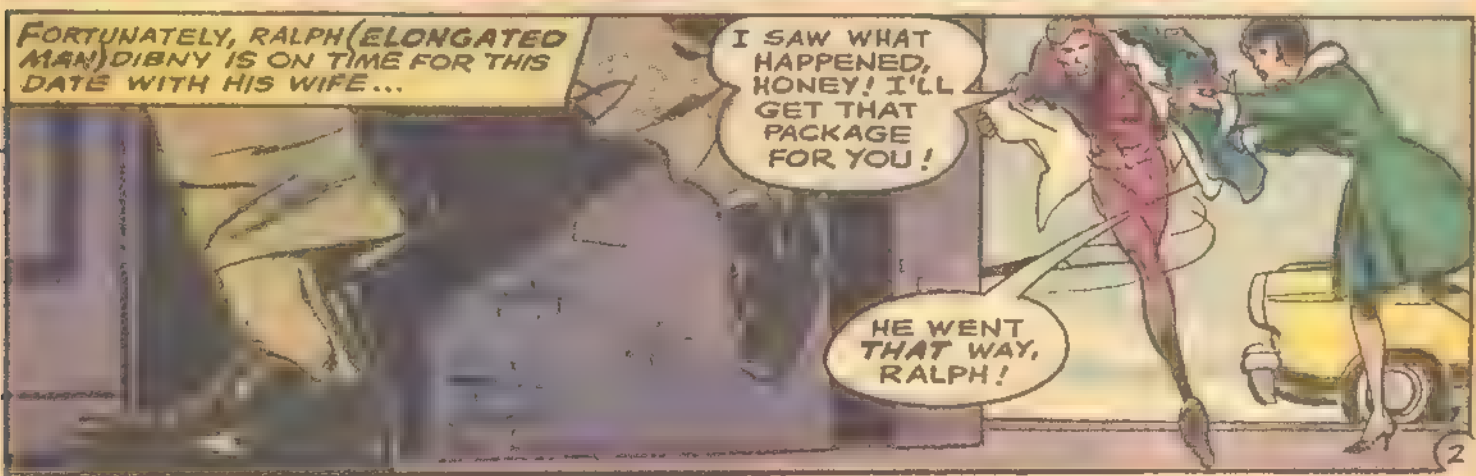
STOP THIEF!



FORTUNATELY, RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) DIBNY IS ON TIME FOR THIS DATE WITH HIS WIFE...

I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, HONEY! I'LL GET THAT PACKAGE FOR YOU!

HE WENT THAT WAY, RALPH!



BUT-- JUST AS THE STRETCHABLE SLEUTH BEGINS HIS FIRST LONG STRIDE...

LOOK WHO'S HERE-- THE ELONGATED MAN!

WHUMP

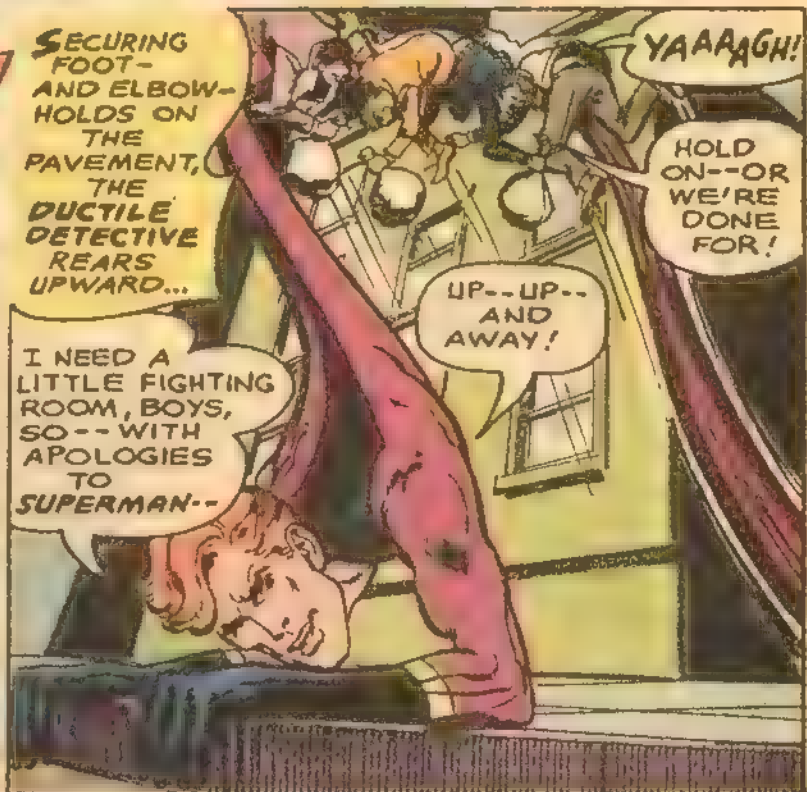
OOFFFF

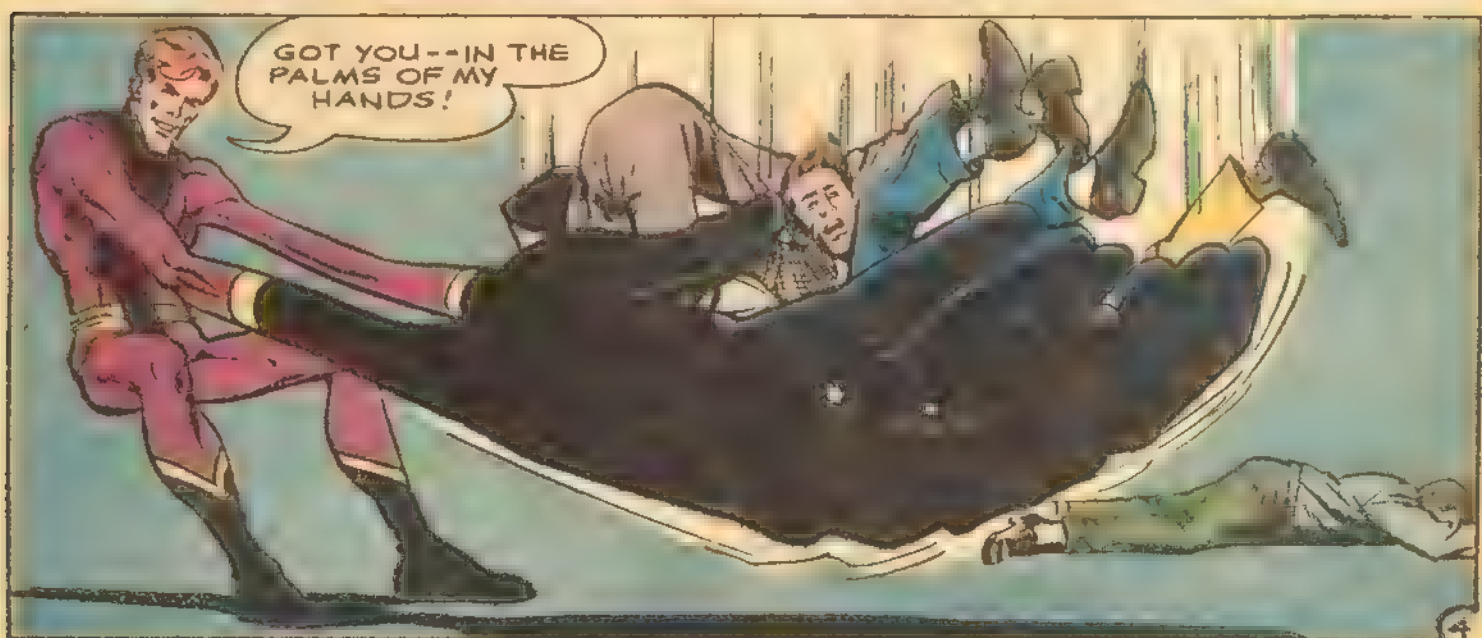
HOW'D HE KNOW WE WERE GOIN' TO ROB THIS AUCTION GALLERY TODAY?



SECURING FOOT-- AND ELBOW-- HOLDS ON THE PAVEMENT, THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE REARS UPWARD...

I NEED A LITTLE FIGHTING ROOM, BOYS, SO-- WITH APOLOGIES TO SUPERMAN--





AS THE BATTERED CROOKS ARE TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE...

A BANNER-
HEADLINE JOB,
**ELONGATED
MAN!** FILL US
IN ON THE
DETAILS--

HOW'D YOU
KNOW THERE
WAS GOING
TO BE A
ROBBERY
HERE?

I DIDN'T! I SORT
OF--ER--RAN
INTO IT!

I WAS ON MY WAY HERE
TO MEET MY WIFE--
JUST AS A SNEAK-
THIEF GRABBED--
SAY, WHAT **DID**
HE STEAL,
SUE?

A **LOVERS' LANTERN!**
LEGEND HAS IT THAT
IT'S SUPPOSED TO
BRING ABSENT LOVED
ONES SAFELY HOME!

WHAT A HUMAN-
INTEREST ANGLE!
"SUPER-HERO'S
WIFE WORRIES
WHILE HE WOVES
WORLD!"

HOLD THAT POSE,
MRS. DIBNY!

AFTER THE EXCITEMENT HAS DIED
DOWN...

WHAT'S THIS,
RALPH--GETTING BACK INTO
YOUR STREET CLOTHES?
AREN'T YOU GOING AFTER
THAT SNEAK-THIEF?

HONEY--
HOW **CAN** I?
I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST
IDEA WHERE HE WENT--OR
WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE!

AT LEAST IT WASN'T A
TOTAL LOSS! I CAUGHT
THOSE AUCTION
THIEVES!

BIG
DEAL! AS FAR
AS I'M CONCERNED
I'M OUT SEVENTY
DOLLARS--OF MY
OWN MONEY--
SPENT FOR **YOUR**
SAFETY!

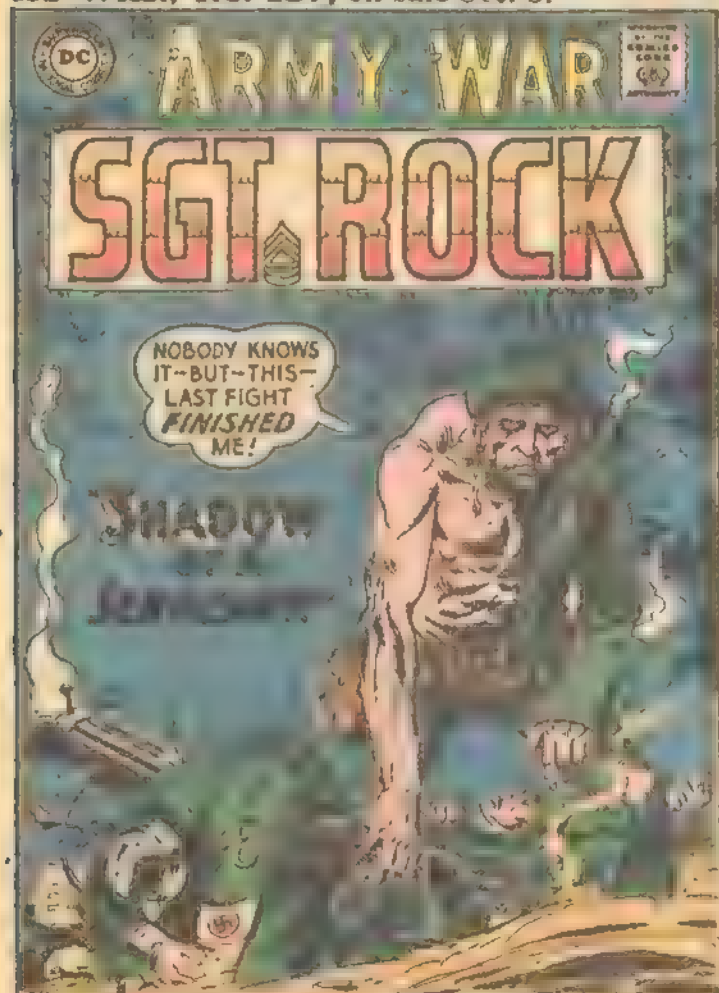
SO YOU'RE
PERFECTLY
WILLING
TO LEAVE
IT LIKE
THAT!
YOUR OWN
WIFE--A
ROBBERY
VICTIM...

BELIEVE ME,
DARLING, I'M
ANYTHING **BUT**
WILLING! WITH-
OUT A SINGLE
CLUE TO GO ON,
I ADMIT I'M
STUMPED--FOR
THE FIRST TIME
IN MY LIFE!

DIRECT CURRENTS

Felicitations, fans! Here's a fantabulous new feature YOU will help create . . . the first in a scintillating series we call (for now) **DIG WHAT'S COMING!** However, if you have a better title, send it our way and, if we use it, you'll get \$5! But that's not all! Submit an original gag to plug our mags and we'll pay \$5 and the original art if it's printed! So get those ideas rolling in!

SGT ROCK of **EASY COMPANY** meets his toughest opponent on the field of battle . . . **HIMSELF!** It all happens in a searing tale of shattering action you will never forget! It's called "**SHADOW OF A SERGEANT!**" You'll find it in the **December** issue of **OUR ARMY AT WAR**, No. 187, on sale Oct. 3.



The **January ATOM**, No. 34, is the **BIG** issue—in more ways than one! Because in it, the **WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO** clashes with the "**BIG GANG**"—**BIG HEAD**, **BIG DEAL**, **BIG WIG**, **BIG SHOT**, **BIG CHEESE** and **BIG BERTHA!** And believe me, our six-inch hero has to do some **TALL** hustling this time! On sale Oct. 3.

Run for your lives, you ravin' readers! Here come the wildest, way-outest cycle-neurotics who ever hopped a **HARLEY** or a **HONDA!** They're "**THE GHOST RIDERS OF GASOLINE GULCH.**" And when **BOB HOPE** and **TAD** get involved with this black-jacketed bunch, the laughs hit on all cylinders, in the **January** issue, No. 108, on sale Oct. 3.



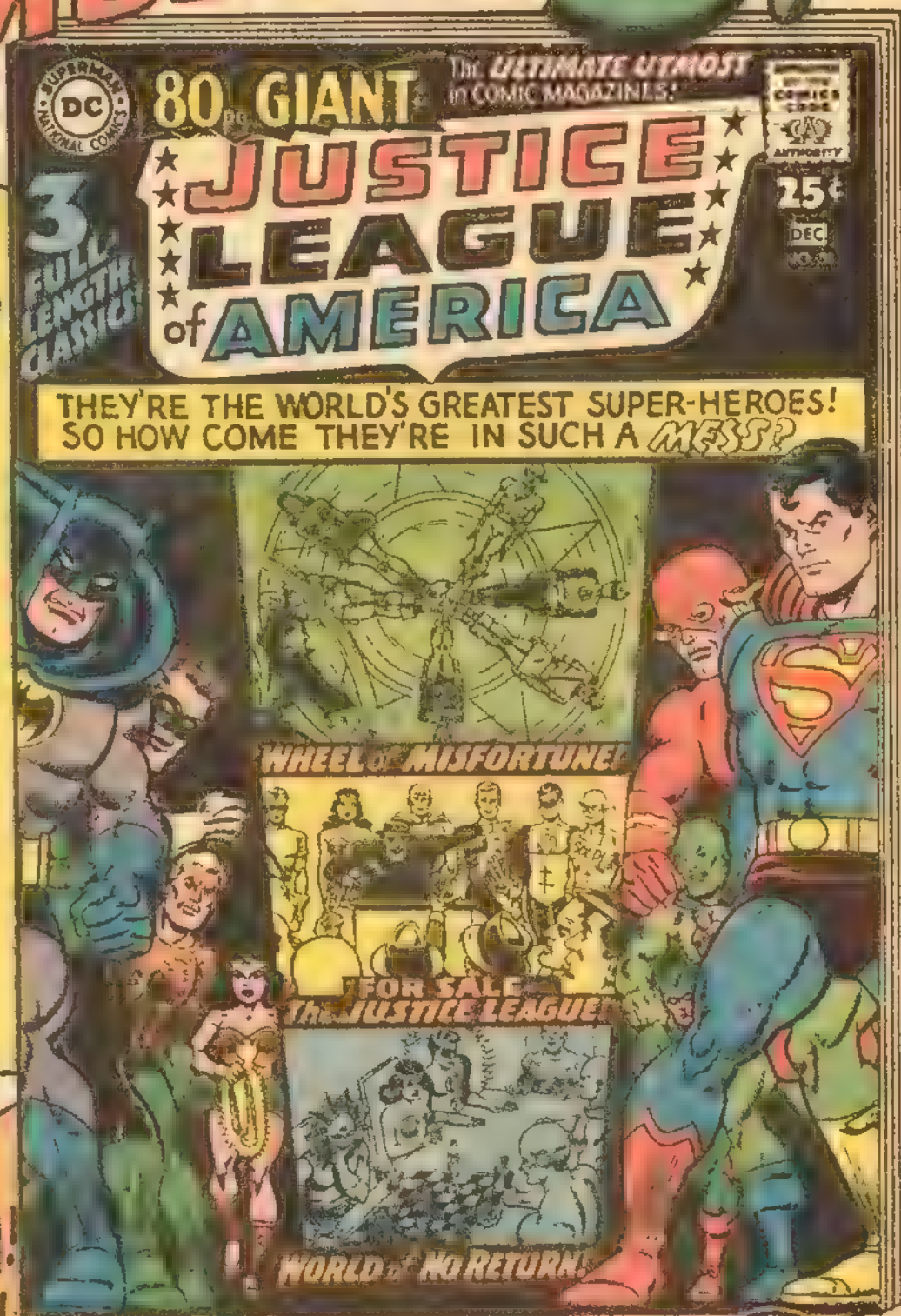
Make way for the most stunning shocker of the year! How come this stone-like villain, whom the natives call **SEEKEENAKEE**, knew more about the **CHALLS** than they did themselves? How could he foresee their every plan and circumvent it? "**THE PETRIFIED GIANT,**" in the **January CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN**, No. 59, on sale Oct. 3.

It's **DOWN . . . DOWN . . .** and **AWAY** for **SUPERBOY** when he loses his powers 1,000 feet above **SMALLVILLE!** He can't fly . . . he's not invulnerable . . . and the town seems to rush up toward him at dizzying speed! What can possibly save the **EX-BOY OF STEEL** from a **CRASHING END?** Find out in the **December** issue, No. 143, on sale Oct. 5.

ROBBY REED may be spinning his **H-DIAL** for the last time when he battles "**THE MICRO-MONSTERS!**" in the **December HOUSE OF MYSTERY**, No. 171. Meanwhile, the **MANHUNTER FROM MARS** has his hands full with "**THE MARTIAN MA-RAUDERS,**" a gang of baddies from his native world, who are trying to take over **Earth!** On sale Oct. 5.

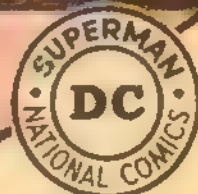
The WINNING NUMBER is 3!

The **3rd**
SPECTACULAR
ISSUE OF THE
ULTIMATE
UTMOST
IN COMIC
MAGAZINES
PRESENTS
ANOTHER
HALL-OF-FAME
SELECTION OF
3
STAR-STUDED,
NOVEL-LENGTH
CLASSICS!



Super-Starring
BATMAN!
GREEN LANTERN!
AQUAMAN!
WONDER WOMAN!

SUPERMAN!
FLASH!
MARTIAN MANHUNTER!
GREEN ARROW!



ON SALE
SEPT. 21st!

NEXT MORNING THE LOCAL PAPER IS FILLED WITH THE STORY OF THE ROBBERY...

YEEECH! WHAT A BREAK! THIS LANTERN I SWIPE BELONGED TO THE **ELONGATED MAN'S** WIFE! I KNOW HIS REP AS A CROOK-CATCHER TOO WELL NOT TO REALIZE HE WON'T REST TILL HE TRACKS ME DOWN!

MAYBE HE'LL LAY OFF ME IF I SEND THE LANTERN BACK TO HER!

IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, A WOMAN READS THAT SAME PAPER WITH MOUNTING EXCITEMENT...

A **MEDIEVAL LOVERS' LANTERN!** AND-- I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND ONE OF THOSE FOR EVER SO LONG!

IF IT SHOULD BE RECOVERED, I WONDER IF MRS. DIBNY WOULD SELL IT TO ME-- ESPECIALLY WHEN I TELL HER HOW DESPERATELY I NEED IT!

SHORTLY IN THE DIBNY SUITE AT A LOCAL HOTEL...

YOU SEE, MY HUSBAND IS AN ARCHEOLOGIST-- EXCAVATING IN CENTRAL EUROPE-- WHEN HE WAS REPORTED CAPTURED BY BANDITS!

I'VE HEARD NO WORD FROM HIM IN ALMOST A YEAR...

YOU POOR DEAR!

I'VE BEEN HUNTING HIGH AND LOW FOR ONE OF THOSE **LOVERS' LANTERNS** EVER SINCE MY HUSBAND TOLD ME ABOUT THEM! IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I READ OF YOUR PURCHASING ONE-- AND MY DISMAY AT HAVING IT STOLEN FROM YOU!

I'M CONVINCED MY ONLY HOPE OF SEEING MY HUSBAND AGAIN IS THAT **LOVERS' LANTERN!** WOULD YOU CONSIDER SELLING IT TO ME?

MRS. HANLON, I'LL GLADLY GIVE IT TO YOU-- IF I EVER GET IT BACK!

AN HOUR AFTER THE WEEPING WOMAN LEAVES...

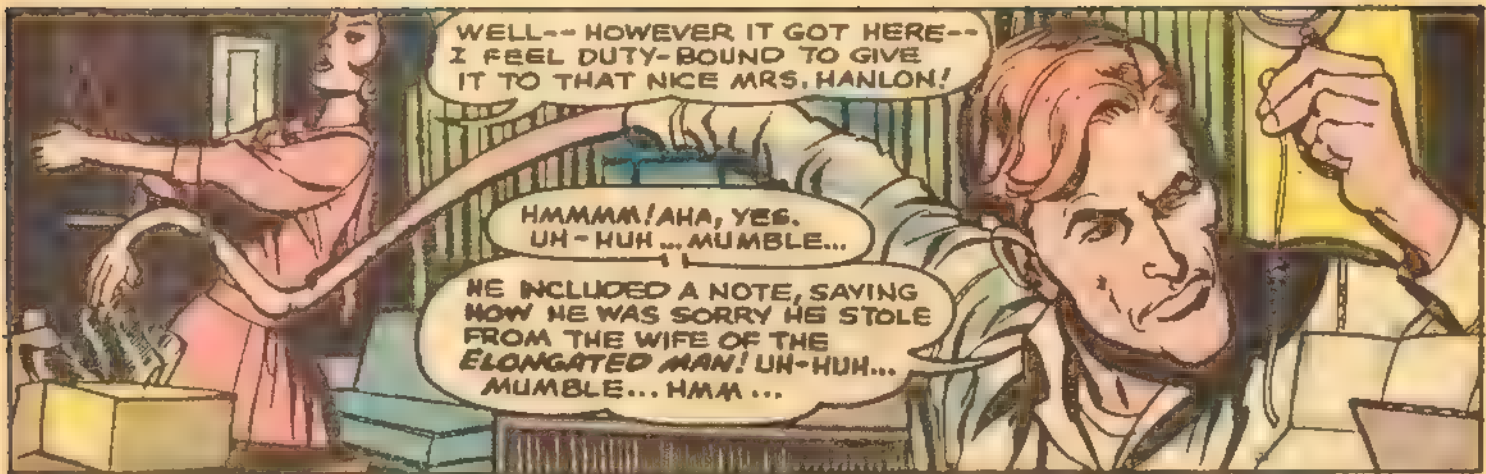
SPECIAL DELIVERY PACKAGE FOR YOU, MRS. DIBNY!

FROM A SECRET ADMIRER, SUE?

I BET IT'S FROM YOU, RALPH! YOU BOUGHT ME A PRESENT TO MAKE UP FOR THAT **LOVERS' LANTERN!**

OHhhh, YOU DARLING! YOU SNEAKED OUT LAST NIGHT AND CAUGHT THAT THIEF AFTER ALL! HAD IT GIFT-WRAPPED AND SENT IT TO ME!

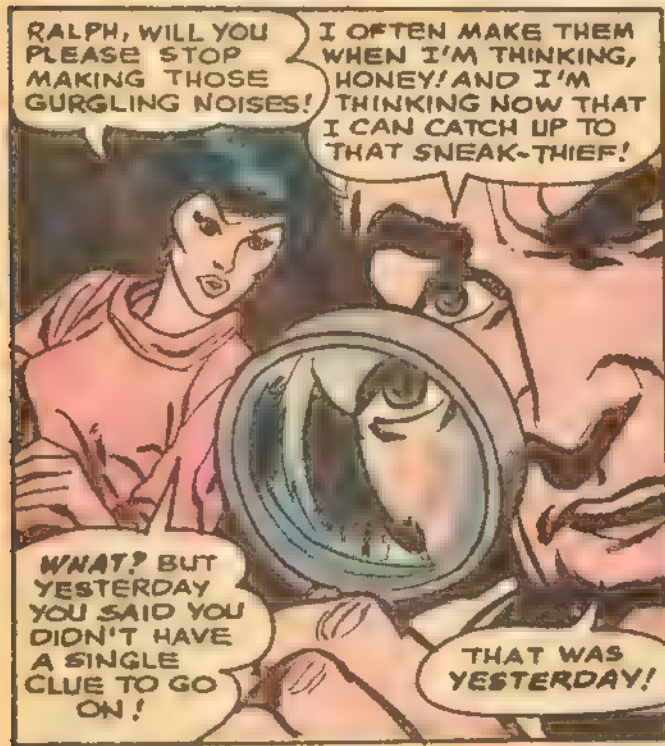
THIS IS A **MYSTERY** TO ME, SUE! AND TO PROVE IT-- THERE GOES THAT TWITCHING NOSE OF MINE!



WELL-- HOWEVER IT GOT HERE--
I FEEL DUTY-BOUND TO GIVE
IT TO THAT NICE MRS. HANLON!

HMMMM! AHA, YES.
UH-HUH... MUMBLE...

HE INCLUDED A NOTE, SAYING
NOW HE WAS SORRY HE STOLE
FROM THE WIFE OF THE
ELONGATED MAN! UH-HUH...
MUMBLE... HMM...

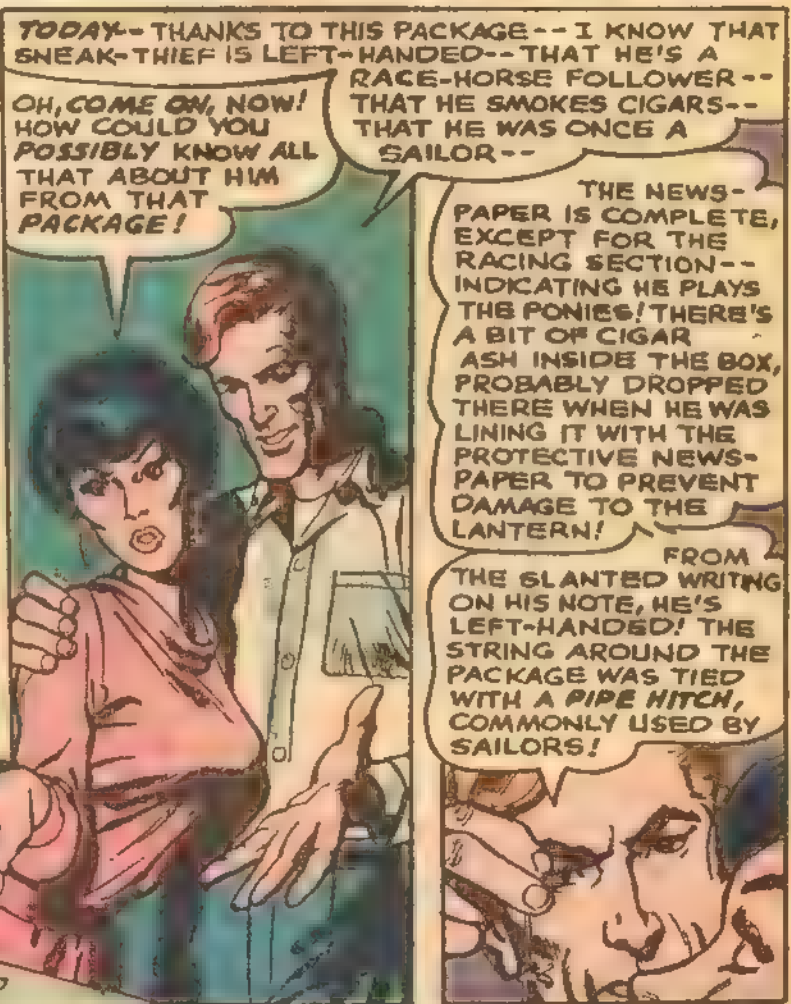


RALPH, WILL YOU
PLEASE STOP
MAKING THOSE
GURGLING NOISES!

I OFTEN MAKE THEM
WHEN I'M THINKING,
HONEY! AND I'M
THINKING NOW THAT
I CAN CATCH UP TO
THAT SNEAK-THIEF!

WHAT? BUT
YESTERDAY
YOU SAID YOU
DIDN'T HAVE
A SINGLE
CLUE TO GO
ON!

THAT WAS
YESTERDAY!



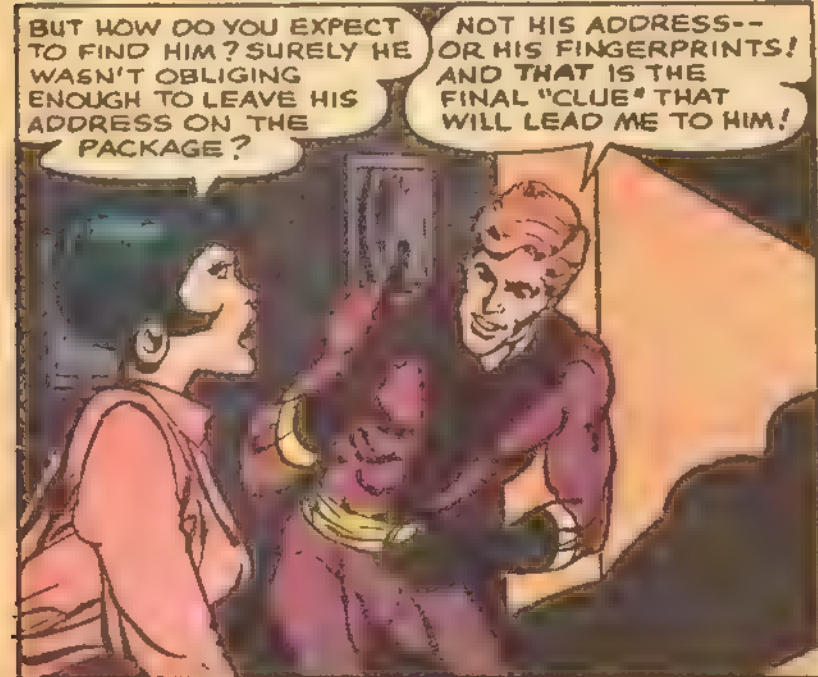
TODAY-- THANKS TO THIS PACKAGE-- I KNOW THAT
SNEAK-THIEF IS LEFT-HANDED-- THAT HE'S A
RACE-HORSE FOLLOWER--

THAT HE SMOKES CIGARS--
THAT HE WAS ONCE A
SAILOR--

OH, COME ON, NOW!
HOW COULD YOU
POSSIBLY KNOW ALL
THAT ABOUT HIM
FROM THAT
PACKAGE!

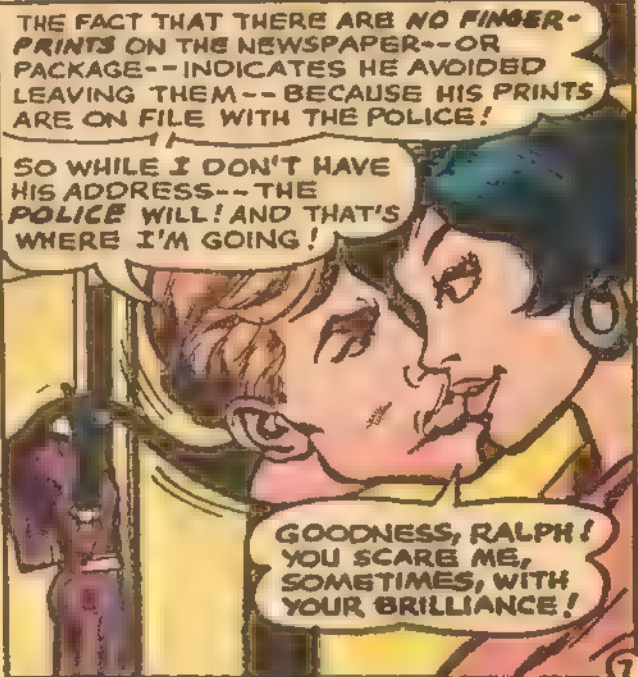
THE NEWS-
PAPER IS COMPLETE,
EXCEPT FOR THE
RACING SECTION--
INDICATING HE PLAYS
THE PONIES! THERE'S
A BIT OF CIGAR
ASH INSIDE THE BOX,
PROBABLY DROPPED
THERE WHEN HE WAS
LINING IT WITH THE
PROTECTIVE NEWS-
PAPER TO PREVENT
DAMAGE TO THE
LANTERN!

FROM
THE SLANTED WRITING
ON HIS NOTE, HE'S
LEFT-HANDED! THE
STRING AROUND THE
PACKAGE WAS TIED
WITH A PIPE HITCH,
COMMONLY USED BY
SAILORS!



BUT HOW DO YOU EXPECT
TO FIND HIM? SURELY HE
WASN'T OBLIGING
ENOUGH TO LEAVE HIS
ADDRESS ON THE
PACKAGE?

NOT HIS ADDRESS--
OR HIS FINGERPRINTS!
AND THAT IS THE
FINAL "CLUE" THAT
WILL LEAD ME TO HIM!



THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NO FINGER-
PRINTS ON THE NEWSPAPER--OR
PACKAGE-- INDICATES HE AVOIDED
LEAVING THEM-- BECAUSE HIS PRINTS
ARE ON FILE WITH THE POLICE!

SO WHILE I DON'T HAVE
HIS ADDRESS-- THE
POLICE WILL! AND THAT'S
WHERE I'M GOING!

GOODNESS, RALPH!
YOU SCARE ME,
SOMETIMES, WITH
YOUR BRILLIANCE!

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS... A LEFT-HANDED, CIGAR-SMOKING EX-SAILOR WHO BETS ON HORSES?

WHY, SURE-- THAT'S LEFTY LUKE KNOWLES! HIS ADDRESS IS 452 OLD POND ROAD!

THANKS, OFFICER!

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AT THE GIVEN ADDRESS...

Y-YOU--?!

WHATTA YOU WANT WITH ME? I SENT THE LANTERN BACK!

I KNOW THAT, LEFTY-- BUT YOU DID STEAL IT AND THE LAW MUST TAKE ITS COURSE!

YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME IN!

DON'T FIGHT IT, LEFTY-- THE LAW IS BIGGER'N BOTH OF US!

KRACK

SORRY ABOUT THIS, FELLA-- BUT PERHAPS THE JUDGE WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, AS A MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCE-- THE FACT THAT YOU SENT THE LANTERN BACK!

AND SPEAKING OF THE LANTERN-- REMINDS ME I'VE GOT TO MEET SUE AT MRS. HANLON'S AFTER I TAKE HIM IN!

AN HOUR LATER IN THE HANLON HOME...



THERE! IT MAY LOOK RIDICULOUS-- BUT I JUST HAVE THE FEELING THIS **LOVERS' LANTERN** WILL WORK--EH?

THE DOOR'S OPENING! WHO--?



JOHN!! IT'S YOU--COME HOME TO ME...!

WEREN'T YOU EXPECTING ME, MARTHA? DIDN'T YOU GET MY CABLEGRAM?

I ESCAPED FROM THOSE BANDITS AND CAUGHT A PLANE-- AFTER CABLING YOU I WAS ON MY WAY! I GUESS IT MUST HAVE GONE ASTRAY!



R-RALPH, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THAT **LOVERS' LANTERN** REALLY HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS SAFE RETURN?

IT WAS EITHER THAT--OR A COINCIDENCE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, READER?

THE END.



Have fought every kind of FOE...

BUT **NOW** THEY FACE THEIR MOST DANGEROUS-- FOR THIS GLOWERING GIANT CAN ANTICIPATE THEIR PLANS AND **STOP** THEM!

WHO IS HE?

WHAT IS THE STUNNING SECRET OF **SEEKANAKEE** WHO KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE **CHALLS** THAN THEY THEMSELVES DO? YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THIS SHOCKER, EXPOSING...

The PETRIFIED GIANT!


ON SALE OCT. 3rd

THE BEST OF DC ON TV!



THE SUPERMAN-AQUAMAN HOUR OF ADVENTURE: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM. WHAT ACTION AND EXCITEMENT WHEN SUPERMAN AND SUPERBOY ARE JOINED BY AQUAMAN THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS. HE'S HERE WITH AQUALAD, AND TUSKY THE WALRUS AND THE SEA HORSES, STORM AND IMP, TO BRING MORE

THRILLS FROM BENEATH THE WAVES. WITH GUEST STARS, THE FLASH, THE GREEN LANTERN, HAWKMAN, THE ATOM, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THE TEEN TITANS! BIG SPECIAL FEATURE: DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO DECODE SECRET MESSAGES—FIRST TIME EVER ON TV.

SATURDAYS ON CBS 



BATMAN, ROBIN AND BATGIRL on ABC TV THURSDAYS 7:30 PM-8:00PM ^{EST}

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